

State Takes Children from Gay Foster Parents

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CDC Atlanta Conference Report



Lesbian/Gay Embargo Protesters Arrested



Racism Plays Big in Hollywood



GayCommunityNews

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Boston protest part of nationwide actions

Gay Men, Lesbians Arrested in Boston Protest

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

BOSTON — Over 400 people, including about 100 lesbians and gay men, were arrested at the John F. Kennedy Federal Office Building here on May 7 while protesting the United States trade embargo of Nicaragua, which went into effect that day.

The protesters were members of the Pledge of Resistance, a national grassroots campaign of individuals who have signed a pledge to resist through non-violent action, including civil disobedience, any significant escalation of U.S. intervention in Central America.

Over 62,000 people across the nation have signed some form of the Pledge. In the Boston area, over 2,600 people organized into more than 150 affinity groups have signed the Pledge, including a feminist cluster of nine groups comprising between 75 and 80 women.

The Pledge was activated locally the previous week in response to President Reagan's announcement that he would impose a trade embargo on Nicaragua. He has the ability to do so under the International Emergency Economic

Powers Act. According to its provisions, the Act may only be used in the case of an "unusual or extraordinary threat to the national security." Reagan has not said what the threat from Nicaragua is.

According to Dennis Marker of the National Pledge of Resistance, there have been at least two pledge actions in each state, some of which have involved civil disobedience. As GCN went to press, over 1200 people had been arrested for acts of civil disobedience across the country, including almost 200 people in New York Ci-

ty and over 400 people in San Francisco. The National Pledge has not called for national civil disobedience, but it has asked local groups to do as much as

bargo. Practically, it was intended to last until the 400+ protesters were arrested.

The town meeting proceeded on the basis of resolutions from some

For lesbian and gay liberation

2500 Join Spirited March at Multi-Issue Pride Demo

By Sue Hyde

NORTHAMPTON, MA — About 2500 lesbians, gay men and straight friends and supporters chanted, clapped and sang in a spirited demonstration for this city's fourth annual Gay and Lesbian Liberation March on May 4.

News Commentary

The kickoff event for summertime gay and lesbian community activities around the county, the Northampton march possibly ranks as one of the most conscientiously multi-issue. Small enough to retain a delightful edge of de-

fiance, rebellion and group cohesiveness, the yearly event does not stop at gay community pride and civil rights, but instead demands self-determination for lesbians and gay men as well as workers, people of color, women, and people of the Third World.

In a blocks-long procession peppered with purple balloons, marchers bore the banners of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA), the Valley Gay Alliance, Women's Pentagon Action of Western Massachusetts, the New Alexandria Lesbian Library, Franklin County Gay & Straight Together,

and the Northampton Town Mothers' Affinity Group, the banner of which read, "We Cannot Live without Our Lives," a quote from the late lesbian peace activist Barbara Deming.

As the marchers passed by the town square and through the business district, the crowds of spectators along the sidewalks thickened. A handful of lesbians offered lavender leaflets to on-lookers and the ranks of yellow-shirted peacekeepers drew tighter around the marchers. Lesbians in particular have been targets of both physical and psychological harassment in recent years in this western Massachusetts city of 30,000. But neither the peacekeepers nor the town police, who were out in full force, reported any incidents of harassment.

At the edge of the rally site, anti-gay fundamentalists spouted moralistic rhetoric at the throng while just six feet away on the curb a group of gay and straight men countered the counterdemonstrators with signs and leaflets of their own: "Adam & Steve Could Be In Your Family," and "Gay Rights are Human Rights." The men in support of the march asked in their leaflet, "Why do not the Rev. [Richard L.] Paasch and those who support him protest or

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Marilyn Humphries

Lesbians march in Boston protest against anti-Nicaragua embargo

possible to resist the embargo.

In Boston, protest took the form of legal demonstration and civil disobedience at the J.F.K. Building. Civil disobedience was organized as a "town meeting" beginning at 3:00 p.m. in the building's lobby. Theoretically, the meeting was to continue until Reagan revoked the trade em-

of the approximately 90 affinity groups present. One such resolution, written by the lesbian and feminist Black Sweaters Affinity Group, read in part, "Since the overthrow of the Somoza dictatorship in 1979, Nicaragua has made enormous strides in transforming the fabric of daily life from an

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Jennifer Firestone

Northampton Lesbian/Gay Liberation rally

State Removes Children From Gay Foster Parents

By Christine Guilfoyle

BOSTON — Two foster children have been removed from the home of a gay male couple following a story by the Boston Globe, focusing on the objections of some of the couple's neighbors. The May 8 story featured comments by former city council candidate Ben Haith and attorney Fletcher Wiley about the appropriateness of such placement. Haith referred to it "as a breakdown of the society and its values and morals."

The two children, both boys, aged two and three and a half, were removed from the home of Don Babets and David Jean on May 9. The removal came after initial assurances by the Department

of Social Services (DSS) to Babets that they would be allowed to stay.

As GCN goes to press, a news conference has been called by state Human Services Secretary Philip Johnson and the DSS Commissioner, Marie Matava, to review and clarify policy regarding foster care placement. The issue has received extensive media coverage, with Babets saying television cameras and reporters have deluged their neighborhood in the Fort Hill section of Roxbury.

The issue also prompted the filing of two bills in the state senate seeking to prevent DSS from making future placements in homes of gay parents.

Margaret Cruise, a spokesper-

son for DSS, said sexual orientation is not a bar to becoming a foster parent. She said the removal of the children from the home does not represent a change in that policy. A statement released May 8 by DSS said, "We have decided that it is clinically not in these children's best interest to remain in their current placement, and we are changing that placement today.... A public controversy has arisen regarding the services provided. Any public controversy serves to increase rather than decrease the pressures being placed on a family already under pressure."

Babets, 36, and Jean, 31, have

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Court Upholds New York Law

By Susan Roberts

NEW YORK — On May 7, a New York state appellate court panel upheld Executive Order 50 which bars private agencies who do business with New York City from discriminating against people on the basis of sexual orientation or affectional preference.

In this 3-1 decision, Justice Sidney H. Asch of the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court of Manhattan wrote that, "Where sexual proclivity does not relate to job function, it seems clearly unconstitutional to penalize an individual in one of the most imperative of life's endeavors, the right to earn one's daily bread."

The 1980 executive order which barred discrimination on the basis of race, creed, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or physical handicap was challenged by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York for the wording about sexual orientation and affectional preference. Later, the entire executive order was struck down in a cross appeal by the Archdiocese. The Salvation Army and Agudath Israel of America have joined the Archdiocese in challenging Executive Order 50.

The appellate court panel decision overturns a lower

court ruling and sets precedent for New York City and state. It is expected that this judgment will provide encouragement to other mayors, governors, and city councils around the country to extend civil rights protection for lesbians and gay men.

The Archdiocese, however, has said it will appeal the ruling and seek a stay of enforcement of portions of the order protecting gay men and lesbians. Nancy Langer of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund told GCN, "We intend to defend Executive Order 50 up to the highest courts." Lambda has played an essential and active role in defense of Executive Order 50, because they feel that its challenge is part of many attempts to rescind gay rights legislation around the country. Lambda worked closely with the city's corporation counsel, Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr. to defend the executive order.

Ron Najman of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) also expressed pleasure at the decision and said it was based on "very solid constitutional grounds." NGTF provides research material on discrimination against gay men and lesbians to corporation counsel and other organizations filing *amicus* briefs.

News Notes

quote of the week

“Gentrification has taken over the South End and affordable housing has disappeared. Where are these women to go? Most of them are living on the edge now.”

— Sue Costa, coordinator of advocacy for Rosie’s Place, a shelter for homeless women that recently reopened a year after an arson attack, as quoted in the Boston *Globe*. According to Costa, there were 800 South End boarding houses in 1970 and now there are fewer than 30.

BOSTON — Rosie’s Place, a shelter for poor and homeless women in the South End, has reopened approximately a year after a fire nearly destroyed the building last April 29. See *GCN*, Vol. 11, No. 42) The fire was officially ruled arson, although, according to the Boston *Globe*, no one has been charged.

Rosie’s building on Washington Street was completely restored with free labor from Boston Building Trades Union Workers and a considerable amount of free materials.

Over the past year, Rosie’s has managed to continue providing one meal a day and overnight shelter out of space donated by local religious groups and with the help of many volunteers.

Now back at Washington Street, the shelter serves lunch to some 20-40 women daily and dinner to 50-75 women, Sue Costa, coordinator of advocacy, told *GCN*. There is room for 15 women and their children under 12 to stay for two-week periods.

Because the need for shelters increases greatly each year and because there are fewer than 100 beds for women in the city, Rosie’s staff hopes to raise \$700,000 to build another larger shelter on a Harrison Avenue site, Costa said. The new site would have 20 beds and serve dinner to 120 women a night. The Washington Avenue building would be converted to a lodging house with space for 11 women.

Rosie’s is funded entirely from private donations and depends heavily on volunteers. To donate money to Rosie’s, send to: Rosie’s Place, 1662 Washington St., Boston 02118. To volunteer, call 536-4652.

southern women’s music and comedy festival

CLEVELAND, GA — The Second Annual Women’s Music and Comedy Festival will be held May 24-27, at a private camp near Cleveland, 80 miles north of Atlanta.

Musical performers include Ferron, Cris Williamson, Alive!, Edwina Lee Tyler and A Piece of the World, Casselberry and Dupree, and the Reel World String Band. Comedians Robin Tyler, Judy Carter, Lea Delaria and Jeanine Strobel, Danitra Vance, and Pici will also appear.

In addition to workshops, craft and artisans’ exhibits, sports, and swimming, festival participants can perform at an open day stage.

Tickets, which include food, are \$85-100 for a four-day camping ticket, \$110 for a four-day cabin ticket.

For more information, send a S.A.S.E. to S.W.M.C.F., 103 19th Avenue, St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33706, or call (813) 367-5815.

woman wins \$4M in rape suit

BALTIMORE — A 25-year-old woman who brought suit against a Baltimore doctor for rape has been granted a four million dollar award by a circuit jury, according to *off our backs*.

The award consists of two million in punitive damages and two million in compensatory damages. The unusually large award is attributed in part to the income of the doctor, Fabio Banegura, who unlike most convicted rapists had the financial resources to pay a large fine.

In a plea bargain Banegura admitted he was guilty of assault and battery and that evidence would support a conviction on the rape charges. Banegura received a suspended sentence.

first strike for peace: submissions wanted

HERESIES: A Feminist Publication on Art and Politics is soliciting material for issue 20, entitled: First Strike for Peace: An Issue Exploring an Expanded Definition of Peace and Peace Activism. Written and visual material is requested on topics such as imperialist intervention; racism, sexism, heterosexism, ageism; hunger; education; reproductive rights; disarmament; health; self-determination; housing. All material must be received by June 30, 1985.

Send submissions to *HERESIES: A Feminist Publication on Art and Politics*, P.O. Box 766, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013. Telephone: (212) 227-2108.

gay activist subpoenaed to grand jury

NEW YORK — On March 27, Bob Lederer, a gay activist and media coordinator for the New Movement in Solidarity with Puerto Rican Independence and Socialism, was served a subpoena to testify before a grand jury in Washington, D.C. The grand jury is allegedly investigating the bombing of the Capitol after the Grenada invasion, and the bombings of a Navy officers club, the Navy War College, and a military computer center. Lederer describes his subpoena as “intimidation” and an attempt to isolate activists.

Also subpoenaed by the grand jury on March 27 in the same matter was Terry Bisson, a member of the John Brown Anti-Klan Committee.

Both men are refusing to testify and could face imprisonment at least until this grand jury expires on October 4 of this year.



Bob Lederer at 1984 New York Gay Pride

labor unionists against apartheid

BOSTON — Eight union representatives and workers, including Tess Ewing, lesbian activist and United Steel Workers Local 8751 president, were arrested here on May 2 and charged with trespassing after spending the night in the foreign exchange office of Deak-Perera to protest that company’s sale of South African Krugerrand coins. The overnight occupation followed a May Day demonstration and rally organized “in solidarity with the working men and women of South Africa” by the Mass. Labor Support Project (a group of 30 labor unions) and attended by hundreds of working people and their supporters, according to the Boston *Globe*.

In Boston that same day, Oliver Tambo, the head of South Africa’s outlawed African National Congress, told reporters that the white South African regime “is becoming demoralized” and that the growing campaign in the U.S. for disinvestment in South Africa is helping to turn the tide against apartheid.

— filed from Boston by Pam Mitchell

herizons banned

WINNIPEG — The Assinaboia Board of Education has voted to ban the feminist magazine *Herizons* from school libraries because it is “anti-male” and “promotes lesbianism,” according to Toronto’s *Rites*. A campaign for the ban had been launched by anti-abortion organizer Joe Borowski who objected to *Herizons*.

Herizons pointed out in response that in over two years in school libraries there had never been a complaint and reiterated its commitment to lesbians and gay men.

measure to curb prison rape

DOVER, DE — State Senator Herman M. Holloway, Sr., has introduced a bill establishing prison sentences for prison guards and health care workers who allow individuals in their custody to be sexually molested, according to the Philadelphia Gay News. S.B. 13 would set maximum seven-year sentences for employees of the State Correction Department, hospitals, nursing group and foster homes and emergency placement centers who either put inmates, clients, or patients in environments where they risk sexual abuse or who withhold information about such abuse.

Holloway said he introduced the bill in response to a recent federal suit by a man alleging he was raped two years ago by an inmate after being incarcerated by mistake in a state prison.

Holloway sponsored a gay/lesbian civil rights bill in the 1970s which would have prohibited discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. The bill received two votes.

operation open door

BOSTON — Operation Open Door is a project designed to document and put an end to race discrimination at Boston-area gay and lesbian bars. It will gather data on the incidence of discrimination by setting up a hotline and will ask gay people to notify Operation Open Door when bars enact racist carding policies. Strategies to end discrimination will include negotiation with bar management, registration of complaints with appropriate licensing agencies, and as a last resort, the organization of community boycotts and pickets of bars which continue to discriminate on the basis of race.

Operation Open Door is a joint project of the Black Men’s Association, El Comite Latino de lesbianas y homosexuals de Boston, Black & White Men Together, and Ann Maguire, Mayor Ray Flynn’s liaison to the gay and lesbian community. Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) has endorsed the project and will provide legal support for the licensing complaint process.

Operation Open Door seeks the endorsement and support of other gay and lesbian organizations. For more information, or if you would like to report an incident of discrimination at a gay bar, please write to Operation Open Door/BMA, P.O. Box 196, Astor Station, Boston, MA 02123, or call Ann Maguire at 725-3307.

gay sex policy in new south wales jails

NEW SOUTH WALES — *Inside Out*, a gay prisoners’ newsletter from Australia, reports that the Minister for Corrective Services here has stated that no disciplinary action will be taken against prisoners who engage in consensual homosexual acts. Prisoners will only face disciplinary action if they breach prison regulations in the course of having sex, e.g., entering another prisoner’s cell without permission.

Inside Out reports it will be collecting further information from prisoners as to interpretation of this new policy at individual prisons, especially in view of the current furor over AIDS and the limited amount of official, reliable educational material being distributed about the disease.

supreme court backtracking

WASHINGTON, DC — In what could mean further erosion or possibly a major reversal of women’s legal right to abortion, the Supreme Court has decided to review a plea by Pennsylvania officials to reinstate a wide-ranging anti-abortion law struck down by a lower court. According to the Baltimore *Sun*, the Pennsylvania law closely resembles an anti-abortion law in Akron, Ohio that the high court struck down two years ago. To many feminist activists and legal workers, the decision to reconsider the Pennsylvania law indicates the court may be preparing a shift in position.

Rhonda Copelon of the Center for Constitutional Rights commented that the Akron ruling “should have settled the issues” in the Penn. case.

When the lower court struck down the Penn. law it appeared to take its cues from the Supreme Court’s ruling, nullifying several provisions, including the following:

- Doctors doing abortions must use the method most likely to save the fetus’ life, even if that brings some risk to the woman’s health.
- Doctors about to do abortion must give the patient detailed information about side-effects and about the availability of help if the pregnancy were to continue and a child to be born.
- Doctors doing abortions must give the patient printed information about the characteristics of the fetus at that stage.
- Doctors doing abortions must file formal reports giving complete case histories.

The court also decided to review the use of affirmative action programs to protect the job rights of Black people and other people of color. The new case raising the issue is *Wygant v. Jackson Board of Education* and involves a system for layoff of public school teachers in Jackson, Michigan. The system assures that the percentage of Black teachers will not be reduced if layoffs are required by economic conditions.

Last year the court stated strongly that the use of such affirmative action procedures violates federal civil rights law when there is no “proof” the minority individuals protected have been subjected to direct job discrimination.

In another action the court left intact a lower federal court ruling that excludes transsexuals from federal law forbidding sex bias on the job. The lower court had rejected the sex discrimination suit filed by an Eastern Air Lines pilot who was fired after having a male-to-female sex change operation.

International CDC Conference

Scientific Speculation Continues in Atlanta

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

ATLANTA — Scientific speculation on the spread, treatment, and causes of the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) was continued here at the International Conference on AIDS April 14-17. The discussions at the conference ranged from basic scientific research, to epidemiology, to psycho-social issues.

Dr. James Curran, director of the Task Force on AIDS for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), estimated that at least 500,000 people are currently infected with HTLV-III, considered by many to be one of the primary causes of AIDS. Curran's estimate is based on a study of 7000 gay men done by the San Francisco City and County Health Department in conjunction with the CDC. In this study, it was found that 30 times as many people as had AIDS tested positive for the HTLV-III antibody. Curran went on to hypothesize that the ratio between those who have frank AIDS and those who test positive for HTLV-III is likely to be greater as more cases are diagnosed. He further postulated that the current nationwide ratio between those who have AIDS and those who test positive for HTLV-III antibody is greater than in the San Francisco study: specifically, that 50 times the number of people who have AIDS

would test antibody-positive. There are now approximately 10,000 cases of AIDS across the country. Thus, 50 times 10,000 is 500,000.

Curran went on to say that between one and two percent of these antibody-positive individuals will develop CDC-defined AIDS within the next couple of years. Curran further estimated that between 18,000 and 19,000 people will have AIDS by the spring of 1986. The CDC defines AIDS as the presence of an opportunistic infection without known cause for reduced immunity.

Curran's estimates were supplemented by the findings of others. Dr. Coutino of Amsterdam found, in a recent study of approximately 60 gay men, that 36 percent of asymptomatic gay men test positive for HTLV-III antibody, compared to less than one percent in 1981. He estimated that between 20 and 40 percent of those who test positive show AIDS-related symptoms. Only one of the twenty people who tested antibody-positive in his study has gone on to develop AIDS thus far.

Dr. Donald Abrams of San Francisco General Hospital said that two percent of gay men in San Francisco now have AIDS, and that 20 percent show some symptoms. Dr. Michael Marmor of New York University reported that

in a study of gay men in New York City, 36 percent tested positive for HTLV-III antibody in 1984, as compared to 23 percent in 1982.

Curran later stated that he considers the antibody test to be an indicator of possible infectiousness through some body fluids, and almost definitely infectiousness through blood routes. He cited a study in which HTLV-III virus was recovered from the white blood cells of 22 out of 23 people who tested positive for HTLV-III antibody. Citing recently published work by Dr. Harold Jaffe of the CDC, he suggested that about 60 percent of antibody-positive people may be infectious, perhaps indefinitely.

Curran also stated that heterosexual transmission in general, and female to male transmission in particular, is happening. He cited a study of men in the military with AIDS performed by Dr. Rapkin of the New York City Department of Health. Between 15 and 20 percent of these men did not report any risk factors for AIDS, but did have contact with prostitutes. It was hypothesized that the contact with prostitutes was the means of transmission of AIDS. However, given that an admission of homosexuality or intravenous drug use is grounds for discharge and loss of military medical benefits, the accuracy of this study has come into

question.

Among the other reports:

- Gay men are changing their sexual activities. For instance, in 1984, 1,300 cases of rectal gonorrhea were reported to San Francisco's Health Department, while in 1980, 5000 cases were reported. There was no concurrent decrease in the numbers of heterosexual gonorrhea cases.
- The rate at which the number of AIDS cases doubles has slowed in both New York and San Francisco, according to Dr. Jaffe of the CDC. However, this may be due to the saturation of the pool of potential new cases as much as to any change in behavior among

people at high risk for AIDS.

• HTLV-III virus has been found in plasma without being in a cell itself, according to Dr. Robert Gallo of the National Cancer Institute. This suggests that various bodily fluids, such as saliva, may be infectious.

• Little progress has been made in the way of treatment, either in bolstering the immune system or in combatting the virus directly, according to Dr. Martin Hirsch of Massachusetts General Hospital.

— *filed from Boston. Some of the information in this article was compiled by Ken Mayer, Director of Research for the Fenway Community Health Center.*

Vocal Gay Presence at Atlanta Conference

By John Beldekas

ATLANTA — This city was the recent host of the International Conference on AIDS, April 14-17, attended by over 2300 clinicians, health care workers and scientists from over 30 countries. Unlike

News Commentary

other AIDS meetings, the lesbian and gay scientific community was very visible and vocal. During the opening session on Monday April 15, Andrew Young, mayor of

and its purpose was to establish a new set of guidelines for healthy sex. "Healthy" rather than "safe" were terms stressed as more sex-positive and gay-affirmative.

David Francis of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) opened the workshop with a disturbing account of the epidemic, stating that further transmission of the virus and disease was unacceptable to him and must be halted immediately. Implying further transmission might be acceptable

However, in an interview after the session, Francis said testing should be done on a voluntary basis. He argued that knowledge of one's own sero-status would be the chief deterrent to further spread of the virus.

Many gay activists and scientists believe that healthy gay men should not be tested, arguing that knowledge of sero-status is not necessary to halt the spread of the virus or the disease. Activists have also pointed out that while many men will feel the need to know their sero-status, and while this knowledge will give some men relief from anxiety, for most it will lead to more anxiety and denial. Further, the test could serve to segregate gay men into sero-positive and sero-negative camps without any solid medical basis.

Knowing one has a negative sero-status can lead to further risk reduction, but can also lead to a false sense of security. Some men may believe that as long as they have sex with other sero-negative persons, they will be safe without taking other precautions. Sero-positive men, conversely, may be led to believe they will not spread the virus as long as they have sex with other men who test positive. However, repeated exposure to

The HTLV-III antibody test could segregate gay men into sero-positive and sero-negative camps without any solid medical basis.

availability of the blood test, gay men should "know [their] own sero-status" and advocated testing all gay men. Francis was unclear about how such testing would be implemented, but did say at one point that "you will all be tested," suggesting that gay men should or would be tested even against their will.

many antigens may be the deciding factor in getting the disease, so sero-positive persons must be as cautious as anyone else. In other words, antibody-positive or antibody-negative, all gay men must follow the same "healthy sex guidelines."

Many gay men and lesbians interpreted Heckler's remarks as blaming the at-risk populations for AIDS.

Atlanta, stressed the need for greater understanding about the disease. Young drew an analogy to the 1950s when Black men were dying from drug addiction, and said that no one cared then because the victims were Black. He urged that bigotry not be an obstacle to compassion for people with AIDS today.

Secretary of Health and Human Services Margaret M. Heckler delivered the keynote address, focusing on preventing AIDS from spreading to the "general public." Many of those present interpreted her remarks as blaming the at-risk populations for the disease. In response, several members of the audience organized a caucus of the international lesbian and gay community to draft a reply statement to Heckler's speech. The statement was signed by every gay organization attending the conference and was signed and endorsed by the World Health Organization. (See sidebar for text of statement.)

A workshop entitled "AIDS Risk Reduction Guidelines" was held on April 14. Not part of the main conference, the session was organized by Dr. David Ostrow,

Heckler Stand on AIDS Hit

STATEMENT

From the International Community of Gay Men and Lesbians at the International Conference on AIDS, April 14-17

On April 15, Secretary Margaret Heckler of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, made a distinction between those classified as being at risk for AIDS and the "general public." We point out that gay men, hemophiliacs, intravenous drug users, Haitians and people with AIDS are *also* among the general public, and failure to acknowledge this is a denial of our basic humanity.

Secretary Heckler has stated on many occasions, as she did again on April 15, that AIDS is the nation's number one health priority; yet her department has requested fewer financial resources to deal with a growing and indeed overwhelming problem. In fact, the Reagan administration is proposing to spend \$11.9 million *less* on AIDS in fiscal year 1986 in the face of an expected doubling of AIDS cases.

Mrs. Heckler's description of the war against AIDS omitted the tremendous burden that the gay and lesbian tax-paying community has borne to make up for an inadequate federal response to education, social

services, patient care, general health and prevention programs.

We are particularly concerned that there is no recognition of the extensive efforts of the gay and lesbian community to prevent further spread of the disease. Nor is there recognition of the importance and dignity of human sexual relationships and the responsible expression of those relationships.

If we are to win the war Secretary Heckler has declared, her Department must make available resources to community organizations that have, for nearly four years, borne the greatest weight of informing, educating and caring for at-risk populations.

We commend the efforts of researchers and clinicians who have responded to this epidemic without adequate assistance from the Administration.

We urge Secretary Heckler to act immediately to halt the further spread of AIDS by committing additional resources to education and prevention. We further urge the Administration to commit resources to patient services to those individuals already ill with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions.

Fire Destroys Boston Gay Bar

By Michael Schwartz

BOSTON — A six-alarm fire elsewhere in the building forced a Friday night crowd to evacuate Buddies, a gay disco in Boston's Back Bay area. No one was injured, but extensive water damage has forced the club to close for an indefinite period of time.

The fire appears to have started in the wiring in the rear ceiling of Warburton's Bakery, between the first and second floors of the building. It was reported at 12:44 a.m. May 4 and burned for ten hours, damaging about a dozen of the 40 shops and offices in the six-story building located at 731-739 Boylston Street. The rest of the shops sustained heavy water damage. Total damages to the building were initially estimated at \$750,000.

The evacuation from Buddies was safe and orderly. According to David Garrick, one of the bar's owners, the order to evacuate came from bar manager Robin McCormack, who turned off the music and asked the customers to leave. "Nobody told them why

they were evacuating," Garrick said, "so by the time they got outside and saw the extent of the fire, they were already safe." No fire or smoke ever entered the bar.

After the fire was put out, there were six to eight inches of water in the bar. The water has now been cleared out, but the Building Department has sealed the entire building pending its inspection.

Although there is no official figure, damage to the bar is extensive. According to Garrick, the carpeting was ruined, the piano is beyond repair, the dance floor, which first looked "like a swimming pool," is completely warped and needs to be rebuilt, and the drop ceiling "is now really dropped."

Buddies will re-open, if possible. Garrick said, "We will do everything we can, but there are always forces outside your control." For the whole building to re-open, it must pass the inspections of the Building and Health Departments, among others.

Community Voices

Design Director (Re-opened Search)

GCN is seeking applicants for the position of Design Director to start in mid-June.

Responsibilities: Establish overall design of the paper, and oversee the layout and proofreading functions on production night. Design (or assign to volunteer artists) front cover, centerspread artwork/layout and book supplement graphics. Design the layout and graphics for promotional brochures, advertisements, leaflets, etc.

Requirements: Strong graphic design/art skills strongly preferred. Familiarity with type specifications, knowledge of printing techniques, and previous design/layout experience preferred. (Limited on-the-job training will be available.)

This position also requires a commitment to gay liberation, feminism, social change, anti-racist politics, and the collective decision-making process.

Salary: \$150/wk. Benefit package includes: fully paid health insurance, three weeks' vacation, unlimited sick leave, and life insurance.

To apply, send resume and cover letter by **May 17, 1985** to: Design Director Search Committee, *GCN*, 167 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

dworkin and porn

Dear *GCN*:

I thought Chan's and Beltrand's account of Andrea Dworkin's screamfest, held at Boston U. 03 April, was so "objective," it ill served D's own purposes. As I was in attendance at the event — I've been tracking Dworkin's career to these many years — and took copious notes, I'm writing you to share some of the Dworkin high-points Chan and Beltrand left out or misrepresented.

Dworkin said that there was a growing "pornography of disability." The porn biz which used to be \$4 billion when Dworkin started working this rant is now \$8 billion, including rapid growth in porn showing women being penetrated by *eels*. Dworkin is fascinated by any act of penetration. She said it was physically impossible to deep throat a cock. Several of my faggot friends who were at this lecture were outraged; they are expert deep-throaters.

She said the Brits won the Falklands War because they gave their sailors porn. She said that Brit troops in No. Ireland are provided with porn; this has led to an epidemic of cases where Irish women are dragged into alleys by Brits and pissed on.

Dworkin said there are 5000 serial murderers loose in the nation, all using porn in their killings. She said there are more porn stores in the U.S. than McDonald's.

She said the Bill of Rights is a shield for parasites and pimps. She attacked gay men. She said "gay male culture is mired in pornography." She implicitly advocated the closing down of gay magazines and gay bookstores. She screamed at us that we could take the First Amendment and sexual liberation ideology and shove them both up our assholes (docs she provide the lubricant?). And in her closing, she made the most frightening statement of all. "Absolute egalitarianism is the goal of political work." I know Dworkin admires the right-wing mentality so much; alas, she reveals her Stalinist slips with appalling disdain for her audience. Actually the role suits her: Comrade Commissioner of Censorship.

Yrs,
Mitzel
Boston, MA

P.S. Since Dworkin is the loudest advocate of the Porn-Causes-Violence school, I recommend she put her money where her mouth is and move to the Republic of Ireland. In that small country, porn is not allowed. A porn-free country. And, of course, because there is no porn, there is no violence against women at all.

GCN welcomes letters to the editor. If possible, they should be **TYPED** and **DOUBLESPPACED**, and where possible limited to five typed pages. They should be sent to: **Community Voices, GCN, 167 Tremont St. #5, Boston, MA 02111.**

pride's patent profits

Dear *GCN*:

How clever of the President of Pride Celebrations, Inc. to introduce the concept of *royalties* to the lesbian and gay pride industry! Marsha Levine has suggested, quite rightly I think, that because a budding local button entrepreneur has based his product on a marketable idea held in trust by a suitably bonded and insured organization, incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth, said entrepreneur should donate his profits to the corporation.

As an added protection against such intellectual theft during future lesbian and gay pride marketing seasons, I would urge Pride Celebrations, Inc. to apply forthwith to the U.S. Patent Office to have the terms "lesbian," "gay," "faggot" and "dyke" officially recognized as registered trademarks of Pride Celebrations, Inc. Exclusive legal rights to these commonly-used terms would bring in a tidy profit, indeed! And lest certain left-leaning, Marxist-Leninists object to these free market practices, the corporate image could be enhanced by pumping some of the cash into a charitable foundation to provide needy and disadvantaged homosexuals with appropriate attire.

Yours in limited liability,
Larry Goldsmith
Cambridge, MA

silence means consent

Dear *GCN*,

In the April 13 issue of "our paper" you may have read the article entitled "Prisons Within Prisons." If you're a prisoner you already know the problems of getting into, living in, or getting out of what is commonly called a "protective" custody unit. If you're a *GCN* reader who has been fortunate enough never to have been in prison then the article revealed to you an intellectually and emotionally unjust situation.

Getting into PC [protective custody] is in most cases not east. Once there, however, one soon realizes the rights, 'privileges' and opportunities forfeited for the benefit of 'protection.' It is too often true that a gay prisoner must subject himself to one degradation in order to protect himself from another more dangerous one. We know also that legal remedies are often out of reach (knowledge and money), and that this avenue never achieves quick results anyway.

I wish to place this challenge in your lap: admit your own vulnerability to the vagaries of the "criminal justice system" and accept some responsibility for what happens to your fellow earthmates. We *do* share in what happens to each other. We are accountable for our actions and inactions. By your silence or indifference you acquiesce to out-of-sight (out-of-mind?) atrocities.

Having lost two close friends in prison, one to rape/murder and the other to suicide after being raped, I feel deeply the pain of loss and the need for as many of us as possible to become involved, even if only a little, in some kind of gay prisoner support. Be a penpal, encourage your *local* gay paper to be more open to prisoner input and information. Can you afford to give any less than that which you would hope for for yourself? I think *GCN* readers are more than they make themselves out to be. Please don't disappoint yourself.

Christopher Badger
Box 150 — 78778
Delmont, NJ 08314

aids and anal sex

Dear *GCN*:

Much of the gay community is aware of the assertion that receptive anal intercourse is particularly dangerous in terms of its likelihood for spreading AIDS. However, I am frustrated that even gays who are relatively well-informed still do not understand why this is true and express doubts as to the truth of the claim. They will say that the claim is suspicious because it is too coincidental that the most dangerous type of sex happen to be that which has been traditionally labelled as the most "unmanly," and will act as if the claim is simply some covert attempt to puritanize gay sex.

The claims that anal sex is dangerous are not being made because of biblical injunctions, but because of scientific data. The probable reasons behind the danger in this type of sex are no great mystery.

Blood is a key to AIDS transmission. During anal intercourse, tears in the rectal lining occur, and there is commonly a small amount of internal bleeding. AIDS-infected semen is able to directly contact the bloodstream of the passive partner. The active partner also faces some danger, due to exposure to AIDS-infected blood.

By making the reasons for the danger clear, in addition to stating the fact that the danger exists, the news media could be more effective in eliminating any doubts, and ensuring cooperation of gays in exercising caution in this type of sex.

Sincerely,
Sander Elliot Sullivan
Boston, MA

ngtf and the rich

Dear *GCN*:

I would like to respond to statements made in your recent article, "Lesbians, Gay Men Join D.C. Demo" (Vol. 12, No. 41), particularly those relating to the decision of the Board of Directors of the National Gay Task Force (NGTF) to withhold an endorsement of the demonstration.

I have no quarrel with the fact that *GCN* decided to report on NGTF's decision. It is certainly newsworthy when a national gay and lesbian civil rights organization takes such an action as this. I would have preferred that *GCN*'s reporter consulted more than one NGTF representative since it quoted various demo organizers on this issue. It would not have been difficult to reach additional NGTF people, since three Board members reside right in the Boston area. I also think it would have been helpful to do so, because the vote on whether to endorse was defeated by only one vote.

My own vote on this measure was an abstention. I abstained not because I disagreed with the goals of the demo, quite the contrary. The discussion and vote came up before the Board toward the end of a very long weekend meeting, most of which was spent working on a reorganization of the Task Force staff leadership and devising a sensible and effective way to find a successor to Ginny Apuzzo. As anyone who is at all familiar with Ginny's work at NGTF can imagine, this is a challenging task. During our discussion, Board members expressed varying viewpoints about the demo. I do not remember hearing the comment that our endorsement would not "play in Peoria," or whatever, but I do recall that a few people talked about our need to appeal to a spectrum of gay people. I felt then that NGTF needed more time to think through a policy it could employ whenever it was asked to endorse various marches or demonstrations. Our board is very diverse. It does include people with a variety of political perspectives, who must work together for a common goal. I felt that in the interest of the need for mutual respect and trust amongst members of the Board, that we needed more discussions about our procedures and guidelines for endorsements.

Finally, I would like to respond to comments made by some of the people quoted in the article. First, I feel that there is not one person associated with NGTF who would disagree with Steve Ault's statement that, "We cannot operate in isolation as gays." It is with this philosophy in mind that NGTF is a member of the National Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, where we work with other civil rights organizations to lobby and promote change. NGTF is present at the annual conferences sponsored by organizations that assist victims of violence to advocate on behalf of their supporting programs to combat violence against lesbians and gay men. The Task Force is very active in promoting the issue of gay rights within the larger civil rights community.

I was outraged at the comments made by Gary Kapanowski. Mr. Kapanowski claims that NGTF "caters" to rich gay people, to the exclusion of all others. He further claims that such "catering" is a disincentive to demanding money for social programs. It is incredible to me that Mr. Kapanowski can ignore NGTF's leadership in lobbying Congress for increased funding for AIDS research, some of which will be allocated to local AIDS service groups for community education projects. Does Mr. Kapanowski think that this money came magically out of the good graces of the Reagan administration or the Congress?

I invite Mr. Kapanowski, and all who share his views on NGTF, to visit our New York offices and talk to the overworked, underpaid staff. I guarantee you will not find opulent corporate offices with panelled-walled conference rooms. You will see, quite frankly, an office not too different from the one inhabited by the staff of *GCN*: cluttered, in need of paint and office furniture, decorated with gay liberation posters, and the grim statistics on the growing incidence of AIDS. I hope Mr. Kapanowski and others will talk to NGTF staff members. These people live on barely enough money to survive in New York City. They have no corporate perks. They have, instead, an extreme sense of dedication to the work and programs of NGTF, and to the cause of gay liberation. After seeing that office and meeting those people, I would like to then hear Mr. Kapanowski's views on NGTF's supposed connection to the rich and privileged. It would make interesting reading in the gay press.

Sincerely,
Cindy Rizzo
Medford, MA

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Community Voices

public apology demanded

(GCN received a copy of this letter to Massachusetts State Rep. Roger Goyette.—Ed.)

Dear Rep. Goyette:

Two weeks ago, on Saturday, March 2nd, I attended the public hearings of the House Committee on Ways and Means in Gardener Auditorium. The day was not a pleasant one for any of us, as no one enjoys spending all day on a Saturday in a hot auditorium listening to testimony. However, I appreciate the opportunity to give public testimony on bills of concern to me, and I appreciate the committee's attentive presence on a weekend.

I am writing to express the dismay, anger and fear I felt as a consequence of a comment you made that day. In response to the need for money to research AIDS, you said, "Maybe we should quarantine them [gay people] or maybe we should incinerate them." I was shocked that in 1985, in a Massachusetts public legislative hearing, you dared to suggest incineration while referring to people. And I was even more shocked that, aside from a few gasps from the audience, there was no immediate response — either from your fellow legislators, the chair of the committee, or people who heard your comments. The remark went unnoticed as if you had said the sky is blue.

Forty years may be a long time, but not long enough for some of us to forget the reality of incineration and gassing of people who were disliked by Nazis in power, in a systematic program of genocide. Those people were Jews and gay men and lesbians, among others. What I heard on May 2nd sounded frighteningly familiar.

As a Jew and a Lesbian, I am not able to sign this letter. I look forward to the day when I can be honest about my identity and not fear for my life. That day is not here yet. I hope you will make a public apology and an explanation of your comments. That is the least that is owed the many people you offended in the audience that day.

Name withheld by request
Boston, MA

(GCN received a copy of this letter to Massachusetts State Rep. Byron Rushing.—Ed.)

Dear Rep. Rushing:

Thank you for expressing your strong interest in an anonymous letter you recently received relative to my remarks at a Ways and Means Committee hearing.

I welcome the opportunity to clarify my remarks which were made concerning the need to obtain and promote research money on the issue of AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

The maintenance of the public health and safety have always been my principal themes during my nine years in the Legislature. That aspect has been enhanced by my service as Chairman of the Special Legislative Commission on Solid and Hazardous Waste and the realization of the known and unknown chemical enemy we face in the struggle to safeguard our environment.

During the past year I have contacted the Department of Public Health numerous times to outline my concern for increased funding for AIDS research and the development of guidelines to protect the general public, public safety personnel, funeral directors, and health workers from possible infection from AIDS. This past week I again contacted the DPH twice, once in reference to legislation to include contagious and communicable diseases under a right-to-know concept for local boards of health, and secondly, to ask Commissioner Walker several pertinent questions regarding the status of AIDS research funding and guidelines his department are developing to inform and educate the public about AIDS.

My concerns about the public health are accentuated by various communications I have had with citizens worried, legitimately so, about the spread of AIDS. A funeral director related his anxiety about making funeral arrangements/embalming an AIDS victim and wondered whether the burning of gloves, clothes, and shoes might be appropriate.

It was in that context that I mentioned "incinerate" and admittedly, that was a poor choice of words. In hindsight, I was focusing on the possible need to "cremate" deceased individuals who passed away from AIDS and was posing a hypothetical question, not a statement.

My reference to quarantine centered on AIDS patients under care in medical facilities to curtail their contact with the general public. It is my understanding that this is already done in hospitals treating advanced cases of AIDS patients in the nation, but that the precise term "quarantine" is not utilized to alleviate the fears of the patient, family, and health workers. Again, a poor choice of words on my part, and, in hindsight, perhaps "separate" would have been more appropriate.

I appreciate the time you took to meet with me to discuss this matter and allow me to elaborate my views. I regret if my comments in posing questions to public health officials led anyone to believe that I had less than the deepest concern for all individuals affected by AIDS and the potential health impact on the general public. I remain committed to promoting addition research funds for AIDS and the maintenance of the public health.

Sincerely,
Roger R. Goyette
State Representative

a lesbian nun sees betrayal

Dear GCN:

I am a lesbian nun, at this point consumed with rage and despair. Having learned recently that the book *Lesbian Nuns: Breaking Silence* by Rosemary Curb and Nancy Manahan is to be published in *Forum* magazine, I can only feel betrayed and angry. Shame on you, Naiad Press, for providing the timber with which an entire community of people will now be burned at the stake!

When I was 19 years old, I was drawn into a life of Christ by the deep spiritual need to share his love serving humanity. Years later, when my own sexuality began to emerge from a formerly unknown part of my consciousness, I tried to deny it, considering all that I had been taught of its "abominable" and "aberrational" nature to be a confirmation of the more reprehensible part of me. Struggling for years with a loneliness and despair for which the most descriptive words fail me, I searched for a way to adhere to the Church's most impassioned teachings while at the same time, I continued to love and care for the parts of humanity which I denied to myself.

While tending the sick and destitute (as a Registered Nurse), plunging myself into the important work in which my community was involved, counseling the despairing in their own quests for redemption and acceptance, I agonized daily over the increasingly incomprehensive dicta of a Church which admonished me to be a feeling person while, at the same time, it cautioned me to monitor, indeed, exorcise, my own feelings.

Finally, I acknowledged that part of myself which, for so many years, had remained submerged — not only the sexual aspect of my very being, but the facet of that sexuality which was homosexual.

Yes, a sin upon a sin — so I was taught. And I wept. I wept in anguish. I wept in self-contempt. I wept for the total impossibility of my position — a nun who loved the Church and my calling, and yet a woman who yearned to express that love in a way which my own beloved Church found worthy of damnation in hell.

Now that the years have passed, now that I have enjoyed the loving relationship for which I so desperately yearned, now that I have joined with other nuns (in a vast underground network) to bring both solace and encouragement to like-feeling and like-thinking people — now, I have been betrayed!

It is for this reason that I find it a moral imperative to write to you — so that others who feel and think as I do will know that our grievance has found a voice.

While I have applauded the authors' courage in bringing the vital subject of lesbian nuns to public attention, while I have participated in helping to publicize their efforts, it has now become apparent that the direction which their effort has taken is completely outside the bounds of acceptability and I can no longer, in conscience, support their particular style.

My objection is based on the fact that *Forum* magazine is a subsidiary of *Penthouse*. To me, *Penthouse* is the absolute paradigm of sexism and exploitation of women. It is only to the most prurient interest that this magazine appeals, to the ultimate devaluation of women to which it is devoted. *Forum* writes under the guise of enhancing human relationships. However, its "hidden agenda" is the same kind of exploitation and sexism which is simply a variation on the *Penthouse* theme.

While the publisher of Naiad Press may rationalize that she wants to "convert" not only sympathizers but also those of a different turn of mind, it is not "conversion" at all in which the rest of us are interested. Our goals are to wake up every day feeling good about ourselves and to share our plight with those who may gain a greater degree of understanding and empathy for the untenable position in which we are now entrenched. It is not to be "used" as objects of derision or exploitation, nor to be publicized by any magazines which have a long and ignoble history of demeaning women, per se, and lesbian women, particularly, in the most manipulative of ways.

Sincerely yours,
Sister Mary Joan
Jamaica, NY



emphasize what happened

Dear GCN:

I was disappointed by Joanne Brown's "News Analysis" of the April 20th March in Washington DC. Though she is correct in expressing a need for more Gay/Lesbian active participation in such political actions, her report focused on the negative issues involved: in particular, NGTF's decision not to endorse the march.

Instead of focusing on what should have happened, we need to acknowledge what DID go on there in Washington. As one of the 100,000 (according to the Washington police), I was proud to be a part of a new beginning of national activism. The march on Washington was joyous, non-violent and very un-selfish. My friends and I witnessed NO sexism, homophobia, anti-semitism, or racism. People came together, united as one voice speaking out against the injustices our government supports everyday.

April 20th was a great success, one that we all should be proud of. I only hope that this is the beginning of a much needed public outcry.

In solidarity,
Roger Jay Kaplan
New York, NY

selective oversight

Dear GCN:

In her analysis of the April 20 actions in Washington, D.C., Joanne Brown noted (GCN, May 4, 1985) a "lack of organized lesbian and gay participation," and stated that, according to Steve Ault of the Lesbian and Gay Network of Mobilization for Survival, "the Network had sent letters to every gay organization in the country they could think of, asking for endorsement." Oh? Strange, then, that the North American Man/Boy Love Association received no such letter nor any oral request for endorsement. An example of selective (or failing) memory? Or another indication of "radicals" tailoring their actions and image to appeal primarily to the liberal Democrats, Black and white, gay and straight, whose efforts during the dismal 1984 election campaign were reduced to shambles? If so, this might explain the whining tone of complaints by some that the pro-establishment National Gay Task Force refused to endorse the event.

Yours for sexual freedom,
David Thorstad, Co-spokesperson, NAMBLA
New York, NY

patience, fortitude, discipline

Dear GCN,

Enclosed you will find an article that was in the Providence *Journal*, a Rhode Island daily newspaper. As stated in the article I did win a major factor in my case so that the officials here are allowing me to receive your newspaper instead of having the court order them to do so.

As for me personally, well I am better now that these people are not so fast anymore to harrass me as they realize that in time they will also feel the burdens of their actions. I hope someday to write an article for your newspaper. Now I am studying in paralegal courses and hopefully when I get out I can join or help start an organization that will help those prisoners who are unable to protect and enforce their rights.

I have learned these three words to deal with these people: patience, fortitude and discipline. We must all have patience to deal with the system, and fortitude and strength of mind to deal with the repression, and discipline to train yourself instead of allowing others to train you.

Please feel free to ask if there is anything I might be able to do for you or others like me who are similarly situated.

Thank you,
Thomas F. Dooley
PO Box 8200
Cranston, RI 02920

fast learner

Dear GCN,

I am a gay male prisoner who is in a position to get out of here in October of this year *if* I can show the parole board I have a job and a place of residence.

I am not looking for a free ride, as I am very independent. I will pay my own way, as well as any debt I may acquire before my first paycheck.

I have a G.E.D. as far as educational experience goes. However, I am a fast learner and very willing to accept a challenge. I have job experience in the following areas: oil rig-roughneck, food service, service station attendant, landscaping and gardening, janitorial service, and sales.

I will accept any type of work. If it is something I don't know, I'll learn it real fast. If there is someone out there who is in a position to help me out, please contact me by letter as soon as possible. State or location doesn't matter as long as it's within the U.S.A.

Thanks a lot,
Charlie A. Dill
35117
Box 2
Lansing, KS 66043

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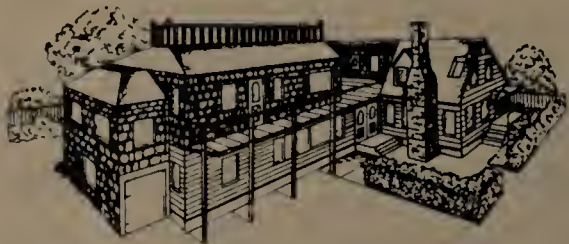
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Gay Parents

continued from page 1

been together for five years and underwent a year-long investigation by DSS in order to qualify as foster parents. Babets told *GCN* a typical DSS investigation takes four to six months. The children were placed with Babets, an investigator for the Boston Fair Housing Commission, and Jean, the business manager of Crittenton-Hastings House, just two weeks previously. Saying "it broke my heart," Babets told *GCN* that the three-year-old became angry and the two-year-old cried when they were removed from the home. The two boys are brothers and their mother has signed an affidavit saying she knew the home was headed by a gay male couple.

Babets told *GCN* that he is filing an appeal with the DSS and will also consider legal avenues. Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) Executive Director Kevin Cathcart said GLAD will represent Babets and Jean in the case. GLAD attorneys plan a meeting for May 10 to determine the legal options that are available.

Saying the legal standard in these cases is "in the best interest of the children," Cathcart questioned whether it was in the children's interests to remove them "based on complaints from two people in the community." He added, "The department is pandering to the worst and narrowest conservatism in the community."

Agreeing with Cathcart's opinion was Michael Colantuono, the

vice chair of the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance (BLGPA), who said DSS should have taken other actions to reduce the pressure, without removing the children.

However, Babets' feelings are more mixed and he told *GCN* he believed such an extremely negative atmosphere had arisen that a temporary removal may have been warranted. "[We] had no choice but to concur — it wasn't fair to the kids."

Much anger, bitterness and concern have arisen as the result of the incident within the gay community with fingers of blame being pointed in several directions.

Babets blames the governor, Michael Dukakis, the *Globe* and Haith. While the DSS maintained that it was the stressful atmosphere provoked by the media coverage which prompted the removal of the children, Babets believes the decision was made by the governor's office and for different reasons. "[The governor] didn't want foster kids with gay people," asserted Babets. He said "reliable sources" within DSS told him the decision was made jointly by Human Services Secretary Philip Johnson and Dukakis. However, Cruise of DSS denied this, saying the decision was made within the department. The governor's press office also maintained that to be the case.

Babets was also angry at Haith, saying "Haith was upset because I didn't consult with him. ... [His] hatred is inexcusable and unforgivable." He accused Haith of using the issue to get "needed publicity" for a future campaign. "He

is trying to get into office on the backs of gay people and children."

But Haith told *GCN*, "The *Globe* contacted me," and added that the reporter already knew of the situation when he spoke to him. Haith, who ran for the Boston city council in 1983, was endorsed in that race, as was his opponent, by BLGPA. Haith expressed resentment over the dual endorsement saying, "I thought it was unfair on their part, but I didn't say anything."

Haith, who as a community activist has worked with gay people in his neighborhood, told *GCN* that his attitudes towards gay people have not changed. He referred to a BLGPA questionnaire in which he stated that he believed teachers should be hired based on their qualifications and not on their sexual preference. He called the situations of teaching and parenting substantially different. "A child is in [a school] environment for a segment of the day. A household is a different [set of] circumstances. It creates different effects. In [the parental] situation one has more control, authority and influence, that's obvious."

Community activists are planning letters of protest to the *Globe* for what they believe is "sensationalism" and "yellow journalism." Colantuono said a letter is being drafted by himself, Ann Maguire, liaison to the Boston lesbian and gay community, and Martha Jones of the Massachusetts Gay Political Caucus to DSS urging them not to discriminate against gay foster parents.

The Pledge

continued from page 1

order of brutality to one of liberation and respect for human life.... We are not, then, simply opposed to the attempts of the United States to overthrow a duly elected government, but we are actively in support of the achievements of the Sandinista government and the Nicaraguan people.

"As lesbians engaged in fighting oppression in our own country, we understand and affirm the struggle for liberation and human dignity. We support the efforts of the Sandinistas toward rectifying the past discrimination of women and other minorities. We see the outlawing of both the death penalty and the exploitation of women in advertising as important beginnings toward re-ordering the priorities of the society. The fact that they have accomplished as much as they have, in the face of enormous repression by the United States government, gives us only a glimpse of what might be possible."

Simultaneous with the town meeting, a legal demonstration in opposition to the embargo and in support of those occupying the lobby was held outside the J.F.K. Building. At its peak around 5:30 p.m., the demonstration involved about 2000 people. As part of the rally, members of the United Fruit Company, a gay men's affinity group, performed a humorous skit in which "Mrs. Olson" told a male couple that Nicaraguan coffee is "coffee worth breaking the law for."

An officer of the Federal Protective Service (FPS) announced the closing of the building at 6:00



Some members of United Fruit Co., a gay men's affinity group, in lobby of J.F.K. Building.

p.m. and ordered the protesters inside the lobby to leave. Starting at 6:30 p.m., and over the next several hours, officers of the FPS, assisted by Boston Police, arrested the protesters and attempted to remove them from the lobby to the basement of the building. Approximately one-half to two-thirds of those present refused to cooperate with police. They were handcuffed behind their backs, then dragged to waiting elevators.

Once downstairs, the officers attempted to book the protesters, with varying degrees of success. When it became apparent that it

would not be possible to process in Boston all of those arrested, 146 protesters were bussed to the Alternative Correctional Center in Lawrence, about an hour northwest of Boston.

All of those arrested were charged with failure to comply with the lawful directive of a federal officer, specifically to leave the building, which carries a possible penalty of 30 days in jail, a \$50 fine, or both, plus a \$25 assessment fee.

Those who remained in Boston were processed by Magistrate

Continued on page 7

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The Pledge

Continued from page 6

Robert Collings, the first group at the Federal Courthouse at Post Office Square, and subsequent groups in the J.F.K. Building. Those who were sent to Lawrence appeared before Magistrate Lawrence P. Cohen. All those who agreed to give their name, address, social security number, and date of birth were released on their own personal recognizance with the condition that they not break any local, state, or federal law between now and their June 4 appearance before a magistrate.

A final group of 21 non-cooperators from the J.F.K. Building were sent to Lawrence, and as *GCN* goes to press, the 13 male non-cooperators have been split between Salem State House of Corrections and the Essex County Jail, while it has been rumored that the eight remaining female non-cooperators may be split between the Massachusetts Correctional Institute at Fram-

ingham and a prison in Rhode Island.

The gay and lesbian presence during the entire action was large, visible, and active. Much of the feminist cluster of affinity groups was explicitly lesbian, and there were gay and lesbian affinity groups not affiliated directly with the feminist cluster. Jenifer Firestone, of the Irreverents' affinity group, told *GCN*, "Just being queer is a rebellious act. Once you're in that mode, it's not that hard to struggle, to take the leap to civil disobedience. Once you break through the sacredness of the nuclear family, then you can break through the sacredness of the President of the United States, then you can break through the sacredness of the United States itself." Kenneth Hale-Wehmann, of the United Fruit Company affinity group, said, "What inspired me to get involved was the formation of a gay men's affinity

group, and the strength and support it could offer." Hale went on to say, "We bring our perspective to the movement. We can show the connections between sexism, heterosexism, and the way the government is acting in Central America."

According to Dan Petegorsky, a spokesperson for the Boston Pledge, the action was a tremendous success. Petegorsky labeled the action a success because it had reached an enormous number of people, because it was the biggest act of civil disobedience that Boston had ever seen, and because it showed the government that "the people do not support the war in Central America."

Dennis Marker said there is a good chance the National Pledge will call another action next week should Congress pass a proposed anti-Sandinista contra aid package.

Northampton

Continued from page 1

cry out against rape in our own community, the physical abuse of children and women, or protest the 'morality' of the abusive and hostile actions of our nation's administration against other peoples and nations?"

Most on-lookers, though, simply watched the marchers stream by. One woman, standing on the sidewalk with her husband, said, "I think the march is great. I'm glad it's happening."

And a shopkeeper, lounging against the front of the store, noted, "It's fine. It's what makes Northampton different." Asked if the scheduling of the march on Saturday at midday had hurt his business, he replied that he hadn't noticed it.

Last year, town officials denied march organizers a parade permit, claiming the Saturday event would disrupt business in downtown Northampton. March organizers successfully challenged the city's attempt to sabotage the march; this year the city administrators and police officials reportedly cooperated with organizers.

The rally got under way with a statement from Gay and Lesbian Activists (GALA), the group which initiated march organizing efforts. Emcees Kim Christianson and Gary Scoppettuolo read the statement, which said, in part, "The gay and lesbian community of the Pioneer Valley is a proud community.... But we are sometimes too quiet...too compliant...too cooperative with our oppressors. But no more of that, no more denial and self-hatred. We'll press forward gaily, exuberantly and tirelessly with our demands...."

Issues frequently raised throughout the day included: opposition to Ronald Reagan's visit to the German Nazi SS cemetery in Bitburg; registration of gay and lesbian voters and participation in an upcoming mayoral election; support for the efforts to force a delegate vote on the gay/lesbian



Bernadette Cozart speaking at Northampton lesbian/gay liberation rally (center).

outreach amendment to the Massachusetts Democratic Party charter at the upcoming party convention; a solicitation for volunteers to join the newly-formed AIDS Support Services, a group to assist the eight to ten people with AIDS in the western part of the state; support for a statewide boycott of Coors beer for its union-busting and its anti-gay, racist and sexist labor practices; and participation in the Pledge of Resistance activities to protest U.S. policies in Central America.

The first speaker, Bernadette Cozart, a Black lesbian and member of the All People's Congress in New York City, noted that many movements for social change have developed in this country over the past century, but that until the 1980s, the movements were not united.

Cozart said the gay and lesbian movement has taken its rightful place in the Rainbow Coalition, which she called the umbrella under which these liberation movements are now found. "There was a time not long ago when there weren't gay organizations on campuses, gay newspapers, or candidates who would speak to us," said Cozart. "We are visible in ways we have never been visible before."

Cozart told *GCN* after the rally that she believes gay and lesbian visibility in smaller communities,

like Northampton, is especially significant. "People coming out in the South, the Southwest, the rural areas is indicative of the times. It's a testament to the movement and how far we've come in raising gay and lesbian issues on a par with other struggles for liberation...and the consciousness-raising that's taken place amongst the majority of the American population."

Gary Scoppettuolo, rally emcee and march organizer, said he and the other 11 members of the organizing committee had attempted to accommodate local groups by providing one-minute slots to each on the rally agenda for the purpose of describing the group and giving contact numbers. Thus, rallygoers were treated to a smorgasbord of some three dozen gay and lesbian organizations in Western Massachusetts, from Face to Face, the gay/lesbian speakers' bureau, to the U/Mass Lesbian Union to Metropolitan Community Church in Springfield, to the Valley Gay Alliance.

"We strove to strike a balance between many diverse people and politics," Scoppettuolo said, "It was our responsibility to organize the [march and rally] around progressive issues while allowing time for the local groups to speak and be represented."

A parkful of dancing, boogeying gay men and lesbians at rally's end gave testimony to the organizing committee's success.

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Hollywood in B

Well, alr i

By Michael Bronski

There is a remarkable scene midway through *Baby...The Secret of the Lost Legend*, a new dinosaur-meets-the-modern-world movie. "Baby," a young hatchling, has just witnessed the death of his 70-foot father at the hands of crazed Black Africans who are controlled by ambitious white scientists. As the parent lolls in the water emitting death gasps, the youngster trembles, cries, licks the dying animal's face, and puts on the biggest funeral scene since Fredi Washington threw herself on mother Louise Beaver's coffin in the 1934 *Imitation of Life*. What is remarkable about the scene is not the magical wizardry of animation and mechanics, which gracefully move and emote the outsized beasts, but rather, the fact that the dinosaurs are more convincing actors than any of the white characters in the film, and have more human emotion than any of the Black characters.

It may seem petty to pick on *Baby*, a stupid mess of a movie which opened to disastrous reviews and has probably closed to great losses, but its blatant racial stereotyping and appalling attitude towards its Black characters are emblematic of a racism which is becoming more and more prevalent in Hollywood-released films. The same pattern can be seen in less obvious ways in such Hollywood products as *Romancing the Stone*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*, and is quite pronounced in the South African production (and major U.S. studio release) *The Gods Must Be Crazy*. The same racist assumptions, slightly turned about, can also be seen in such big bucks productions as *The Cotton Club* and *Beverly Hills Cop*.

Hollywood has always been very specific in curtailing the roles that people of color have been allowed to play in its films. Maids and red caps were the most common roles, usually bumbling and fools, although there were times where minority actors, such as Hattie McDaniel in *Gone with the Wind*, were able to rise above their material and present full, human portrayals. There were other times, such as in the *Shaft* movies of the late 1960s, when Hollywood produced and marketed cheaply-made, Black action films for a Black audience. But this ended as soon as they felt their limited financial outlay did not garner enormous profits. And although there have been some hopeful signs of improvement over the past decade, the images of people of color in major Hollywood films now seem to be at an all-time low.

The most common trend is to present minority characters as local-color props to the real (i.e., white) story. This is what *Baby* does. While pretty, empty-headed William Katt and Sean Young are lost in the jungle, they meet a tribe of innocent, child-like Black Africans who are enthralled by their Polaroid camera and amused by their crunchy granola bars. Needless to say, they become helpful friends. Meanwhile, vicious, white scientists Patrick McGookan and Julian Fellows — the latter who plays a misogynist, gay stereotype — engage bloodthirsty Black African military personnel to track down and capture the dinosaurs, as well as kill the good white people. These Africans — who are clearly defined as having some power — are presented as dangerous, deadly, and deranged. It is no



Gloriously singing her way through "Ill Wind," Lonette McKee is the only spark of great Black talent in *The Cotton Club*.

accident that their portrayal resembles very closely that of Black American teenagers in Hollywood street crime movies; listening to Black rock on large radios, using threatening body language and acting aggressive, they play into every media stereotype of dangerous Black people. It is a Bernhard Goetz nightmare.

The racism of *Baby's* producers is made even more clear in the production notes, which speak of filming problems on location in Africa. Apparently local tribes would not let them film in a lake until they had made offerings to the resident water spirits. The story, as recounted in the April 1 issue of *People* magazine, is elaborated upon to reveal that the "spirits" wanted two bottles of gin and some tennis shoes. The entire press release was built around the suggestion of the naive duplicity of the Africans.

This split between the innocent "natives" and the brutal "savages" is even more pronounced in *The Gods Must Be Crazy*. Filmed by a South African company, the film has done amazingly well in this country, both critically and financially. It begins as the story of a Bushman tribe who finds a Coke bottle and think it is a gift from the gods. After the discovery causes the tribe much internal trouble, X!, a young man, decides to go to "the end of the world" and throw it away. His story is then inter-cut with two other tales: a white, heterosexual romance (which includes every dull, insipid cliché imaginable) and a sub-plot involving a Marxist terrorist group (white leader, Black peons) who do things like slip on banana peels. (Subtlety is not a forte here.) The whole film is presented as a charming, sweet comedy.

Most liberals would be happy to believe that these stereotypes are a product of South African racism, but the fact is that they play very well here. There are, of course, other messages in these films. It is no accident that both groups of "savages" are clearly defined as leftist and Marxist — no doubt part of Jeanne Kirkpatrick's dream of global ter-



Getting a great chance to play Black showmen, the Hines brothers find themselves stuck in a white-oriented gangster movie.

rorism. And to bolster the anti-gay implications of *Baby's* evil scientists, Sean Young — who has denied her "natural desire to be a mother" — ends up wanting to adopt the dinosaur. It's homosexual evil vs. heterosexual nurturance.

But there are two clear images, and messages, which come from both these films. The first is that the white characters are allowed to have feelings, sexuality, personal lives and distinct personalities — no matter how shallow — and that the Black characters are reduced to an indistinct blur which is either naive, silly and insultingly innocent, or profoundly evil, dangerous and life-threatening. Both of these extremes correspond to the wishes and fears which have pervaded the white American popular imagination for centuries. The second message is just as ingrained in western mythology and even more disturbing and frightening; the callous expendability of the lives of people of color. The Black revolutionaries in *The Gods Must Be Crazy* only kill other Blacks. The machine-gunnings and bomb blasts are all treated as jokes. The ensuing deaths are the punch lines. Halfway through *Baby* the "savages" fight the "natives" and there are a great many deaths. It is hard to imagine a more depressing or revolting sight than a scene in which two groups of Black men are killing one another to further the plot devices of white characters, especially when it is in a film that is, by and large, made for the edification and enjoyment of white audiences.

This cavalier attitude towards the lives of people of color has always been endemic to Hollywood thought. It is such an obviously racist attitude, one would have thought it would have disappeared by now, if only because *some* change does happen through the passage of time. But the idea has proven pernicious and is still in full force, especially in what are considered escapist, entertainment films.

The flippant attitude towards the Arab characters in *Raiders of the Lost Ark* went unmentioned by most of the critics, and many even singled out the confrontation scene between a be-gunned Harrison Ford and a whip-wielding Arab assassin as being one of the best jokes of the film. (Interestingly enough, even the Third World villains in this film were working for smarter, more powerful, white villains.) Perhaps the racism of *Raiders* was overlooked out of enthusiasm for a rousing summer entertainment. Two years later it was much harder to ignore the even more blatant racism — this time against East Indians — in *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*.

While both films claimed to be invoking the look and feel of 1930s serials, they also incorporated the most obvious assumptions and prejudices of those films: the idea of people of color as being more evil, cruel, heartless, superstitious and uncaring toward human life than white people; in short, less human. The argument that these films are merely parodies is both specious and inaccurate. Just because racism exists in older Hollywood films does not mean that it has to be replicated today. And neither film is an exact parody of the original form; both take great liberties with both the tone and the format of the material, shaping it to a modern sensibility, rather than just making fun of the source. Rather than parody, they are actually high-tech, high-production remakes of the same material, manufactured with the same values and attitudes as their predecessors 50 years ago. The racism here is not incidental. It is intrinsic to both the filmmakers' and the audience's vision.

It is true there has been some change in some Hollywood images, if not in consciousness, then in what is acceptable. *The Gods Must Be Crazy* and *Baby* aside, there are probably fewer blatantly offensive images of Black people in Hollywood films today. There have been enough outcries and protests by American Blacks for the industry to know that such images and stereotypes were unacceptable to the Black, and to some of the white, movie-going public (a fact that makes the appearance of *Baby* even more shocking). Without Blacks to kick around, film-makers may have



Who are the filmmakers telling us is dangerous in this picture?

Black and White

ght. White.



The casual integration of *Breakin' 2* is probably a result of the film's being dismissed as an unimportant youth movie.

lightened the skin tone, but hardly their touch. Many newer films — *Indiana Jones* is a good example — cast Arabs, Latinos, and other dark-skinned people in the same roles that Blacks occupied in the past.

Arabs especially have come in for a lot of race-baiting. As early as 1976, *Network* was accusing off-screen Arabs of a sinister plot to take over U.S. television. And many run-of-the-mill international intrigue films, such as *Black Sunday*, play upon North American arabophobia to score their points and suspense. A much different image than the romantic rape images of Valentino's *The Sheik*, these Arabs are dangerous because they have money and power. Besides being a replacement for racist images of Blacks, these fears of Arabs are probably fed by the much-touted oil crisis, as well as by Iran's seizure of U.S. embassy personnel.

The same is also true of similar images of Latinos. The very popular *Romancing the Stone* continually used stereotypical images of Latin men both to threaten and amuse the audience. In many ways Latinos and Arabs are handled in films the way Victorian novels would deal with Jews: they are swarthy, suspicious, avaricious, and power-hungry non-westerners, who are not to be trusted and pose some threat to the moral, economic and social status of the important (i.e., white) characters. While some of the change from Black to Arab and other Third World characters was a response to protests against racism, Hollywood chose to simply change the cast of characters rather than making any deep or lasting change in their way of imagining the world.

The blatant racism of *Baby* aside, images of Blacks in mainstream films have changed somewhat over the past years. Black-produced films like *The Last Dragon* and *Beat Street* prove that you can make movies about Black characters which can be commercially, if not critically, popular. And occasionally even a high-quality production like *A Soldier's Story* has a chance to be made with Hollywood money and marketing.

— This is a fairly new evolution in the history of Hollywood race and economics. There has been a lengthy, if little known, history of Black-produced and -directed independent film productions. Beginning in 1915 as a reaction to the racist hit *Birth of a Nation* and continuing to the late 1940s, these films were made for a Black, albeit segregated, audience. Although there were times when they did flourish, they ultimately could not compete in the ever-growing, highly financed, U.S. market. It was difficult to raise enough production capital, and then even more difficult to work in the all-white distribution networks.

If those two obstacles were overcome, there was then the problem of relying on the support of all-Black audiences who had substantially less money to spend on entertainment. These early production companies — which were totally Black-run, or run in conjunction with white producers — saw the need to take control of the medium to improve the image of Blacks. But because they could not totally separate themselves from the larger economic structure of the industry — especially distribution and promotion — they could not survive on their own.

A Soldier's Story is a remarkable, but unfortunately all too rare, production: a token rather than a sign of change. Hollywood is much more likely to put its money behind films like *Beverly Hills Cop* or *Cotton Club*, both of which present some changes in the film industry's treatment of Black characters, but both of which are fraught with racist assumptions.

Cotton Club started out as a project several years ago. The original idea was to set a musical drama in the world-famous Cotton Club, a white-run and -patronized nightclub which featured Black entertainment. Conceived of as a story, and showcase, of Black entertainers, the studios feared there was little box office in it. Slowly the script and the idea were changed and the project became a cliché-ridden story of white gangsters which featured some Black singing and dancing as background. The movie features some great Black



It's all right for Lisa Eilbacher to touch Eddie Murphy; but not the other way around.

talent — Gregory Hines and Lonette McKee, as well as veterans Charles "Honi" Coles and Thelma Carpenter — but the Black plot takes up probably only a third of the film. And the producers and director got so caught up in the white gangster story, they cut most of the Club's production numbers. (A shame, because the truncated numbers we do see seem as lush and magical as the original Club's were supposed to be.)

Cotton Club is a prime example of good intentions done in by racist assumptions. The idea of a film which would explore an important aspect of Black American cultural history was perceived as having only limited appeal. The studio could not conceive that mass (i.e., white) audiences would want to see a film whose main characters were not white. What was finally produced was the most pallid remake — though visually exciting — of a traditional 1930s gangster film. When the film does deal with the racial themes — such as the Black mob trying to run the white mob out of Harlem — it is superficial and demeaning in its triviality. Even the relations between the Black characters are presented in the most traditional, hackneyed terms — Lonette McKee's character passes for white and cannot commit herself to a Black man — that they seem not only out of date, but dramatically unexciting as well. Although probably well-intentioned, and certainly the Black characters here are presented with some dignity and strength, *Cotton Club* fails because it refuses to act on its original intentions and vision. The end product is not all that much different than the old 1940s and '50s Hollywood musicals like *Stormy Weather* or *St. Louis Women* in which the studios' Black performers under contract were given thin or marginal material with which to make the best. It is true that *The Cotton Club* is integrated in a way which these films never were, but it

seems just as insulting to racially mix a cast if you are going to shortchange the Black talent. In some ways the old, all-Black musicals turned out by Hollywood — especially a piece like *Cabin in the Sky* — had more integrity and more consciousness about its race politics than the misshapen and mis-conceived *Cotton Club*.

If *Cotton Club* failed because its backers had no faith in audiences wanting to see Black entertainers on the big screen, *Beverly Hills Cop* fails because it knows all too well how it must promote and push its only asset: Black actor and producer Eddie Murphy. *Cop* was originally written as a showpiece for Sylvester Stallone. After that project fell through, Murphy had it resuited to himself somewhat. It's a pretty routine "wild and crazy" renegade cop action film, with too many car crashes in the beginning and too long a shoot-out at the end, which is only held together by the verve and energy of Murphy's smart-talking, jive persona. But whatever its artistic failings — and given how truly terrible some films are, this isn't all that bad — *Beverly Hills Cop* is probably going to be the most financially successful film this year, grossing over \$210 million in less than 20 weeks' release.

But watching the film, you begin to realize something very strange. Except for a few Black kids at the film's beginning, and a Black policeman in the last segment, Eddie Murphy is the only Black person in the film. This is brought into high relief as the plot twists connect him with a woman character played by Lisa Eilbacher. In any typical Hollywood iconography — and certainly in the Stallone version — she would be the hero's girlfriend. But here it is made quite explicit that she is merely a friend. Now it would be nice to think that Hollywood is getting to the point where it can present heterosexual friendships devoid of all the usual romantic baggage, but this is clearly not the case. *Beverly Hills Cop* is a vehicle for Eddie Murphy, and as such, needs to appeal to as wide an audience as possible. Murphy is one of the few Black entertainers who has a wide crossover to white audiences: if *Beverly Hills Cop* was to make money, that crossover appeal could not be hurt in any way. This is a slick package, put together and promoted to appeal to both white and Black audiences, and I think that the crucial element in that packaging — and what sets it apart from most other mass-market action films — is the lack of any love interest for the main character.

Any other film would have presented the Murphy character and the Eilbacher character as lovers. But Hollywood clearly perceives, probably correctly, that it would have been nearly impossible to do this with Murphy in this film. If he were given a Black woman lover, white audiences would have been turned off, since the film would have taken on an ethnicity which they are unused to and unwilling to deal with. Making Lisa Eilbacher his white lover

Continued on page 11



What may be intended as character innocence might well be perceived as race stupidity.

Freedom's Just Authorities as jealous 'lovers' (possessors) Affection and Control

Central, top-down control is the name of the prison (military, religious, education, etc.) game. Anything that truly threatens the hierarchy is squashed where possible. The "liberal" mentality, like the reactionary, wants to keep control centralized. Affection between people immediately decentralizes power. You need a person's attention to control them. Lovers' attention goes more to each other and less to the authorities (who get 'jealous,' of course). They want your complete obedience for themselves, no competition. Welcome to the "justice (punishment) business."

Being penpals with a prisoner is a small way to give a prisoner (and yourself) something to focus on besides the authorities and their rules. It's also a way to learn something about social control. The "Prisoners Seeking Friends" space appears regularly in GCN.



the fire in his eyes

Have you ever given much thought to how men could love each other in such barbaric conditions, without support but with many guards that lack understanding and who mistreat, and fail to realize that gays do have feelings. Yes, I have dreamed that one day a great Movie would come of the true story that I'd write. What a movie it would be (gays on the inside in love);

impossible some would think. But not true, for I am such an inmate. My lover, his name is Carl. He is beautiful, a man that walks tall, has courage, and also has a heart big as the ocean. We met in prison and for three years had a beautiful relationship. Love was there, everything was. Most feared him, but I as a gay took special notice of the fire in his eyes. Also Carl had a strong sex drive, and a funny sense of humor, always joking. But then one day a high ranking officer took notice of our joy in each other and decided to destroy this love with his hate for gays. First he separated us. Being this officer was a high ranking official, other guards who wanted to please him also took note of us and not before long they took Carl and locked him down in isolation.

They put me in the dungeon where I have been for over a year.

Tonight I want to cry, though tears seem lacking and are hard to come by. For this hurt controls me. And I feel I need some help, some public support to get him back.

My love has stayed strong. I've cried over old songs I hear thinking of this love we had; destroyed because of guards that could not understand.

As I sit typing this I wonder why? I had been with Carl for three years. Now alone feeling subdued, I wonder how I can be with him. I have written every official, but all appear to be deaf. He did no wrong. The only wrong he done in their eyes was loving me. See, it's ok if you don't get involved or become serious, or if a kid is just being passed around or used, but when one falls in love, they never seen it before and can't deal with it. They acted like they were scared, jealous because they had no love as Carl and myself

had. So their only course was to destroy. If I had written this a year ago it would have been music, songs, poems and full of love. But ignorance destroys love in cages.

Yet I remain strong, though everywhere I look now I feel so alone and empty. Is this rehabilitation? I ask to have my Carl back. Tonight I want to cry, though tears seem lacking and are hard to come by. For this hurt controls me. And I feel I need some help, some public support to get him back. I'm not talking money. Keep your money. But if you feel there has been an abuse of power here as I do, please write Warden Bramlett of Arizona State

continued on page 12

GLCS Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services

Two groups are now forming at the Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services (GLCS):

Married Men's Group

A supportive group for gay and bisexual men who have been in heterosexual marriages or relationships.

Groups for Friends and Lovers of People with AIDS

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Please call Alan Tweedy, L.I.C.S.W. at GLCS for more information on these services.

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BOSTON-AREA GAY/LESBIAN BUSINESS GUIDE

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This guide provides a listing of gay/lesbian owned, staffed, or supportive businesses and services. To have your business or service listed (for only \$100.00 per year) call 426-4469.



Boston rally, May 5, to protest Reagan's visit to Nazi cemetery in Bitberg, Germany

Movies

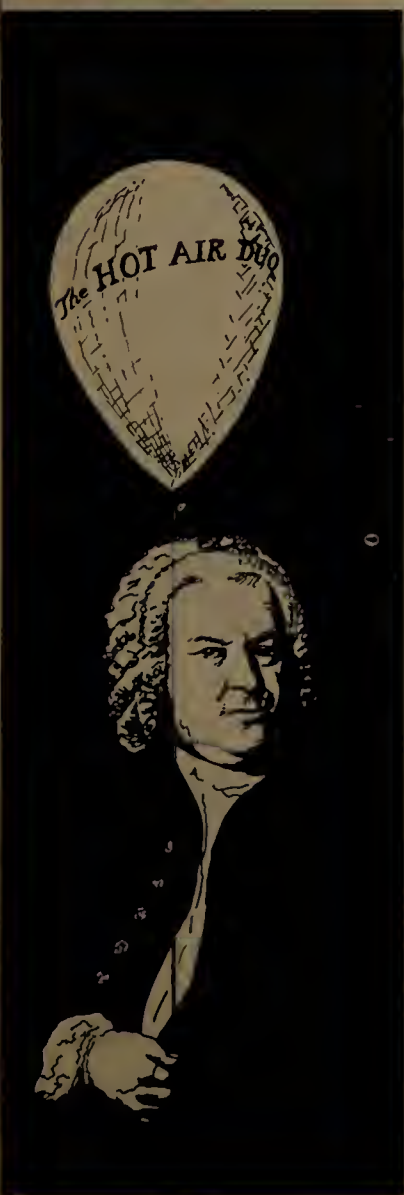
Continued from page 10

would have been even more risky. Both Black and white audiences might have reacted negatively and the impressive commercial potential of the film would have been undermined. In the current constellation of studio financing, audience acceptability, and star appeal, it is probably impossible for a major Black star like Murphy to have a full-fledged love life on screen. While it is quite clear that Eddie Murphy is a Black actor — and one who looks, talks, and acts Black — it is also clear he is the exception. Not only is he not allowed to exist in a Black context, his screen character must also be devoid of a sex life. Although *Beverly Hills Cop* is a far cry from the blatant racism of *The Gods Must Be Crazy* or *Baby*, it is clear that the same racist assumptions are at work in depriving any fully human portrayal of a Black character to emerge on the screen.

Part of the problem in dealing — or even thinking — about racism in Hollywood films is that it is so endemic, so historically prevalent, that it appears almost invisible. When people of color are shown positively, in major roles, the films are many times marketed only to a Black audience. A so-so, youth-oriented break-dance film like *Breakin' II*, which was casually yet totally integrated, was presumed to appeal only to a Black audience. A film like *Police Academy*, which was integrated, yet aimed at a mass audience, used racial stereotypes to get many of its laughs. (It is true that the stereotypes were treated as

stereotypes and were therefore thought to be more humorous. It should be noted that this perspective did not apply to the ugly, pointed homophobia which also pervaded the film.) Recently the makers of *Friday the 13th* congratulated themselves for having the first Black teenager in a slash-and-splatter film, and on the fact that he is not murdered with the rest of the cast. While it might be argued that the casual introduction of Black characters in mainstream films is a step in the right direction, this is hardly a big enough improvement for a round of applause.

It is easy to say that Hollywood has a long way to go in dealing with racial — as well as sexual — issues. But it is not enough just to blame the industry. Movies like *Baby* get made because someone thinks they will make money. Films like *The Gods Must Be Crazy* get released here because they do make money. *Beverly Hills Cop* has made a huge amount of money because people do not have to deal with Eddie Murphy as a sexual being. *Police Academy* made money because audiences could "knowingly" laugh at its racist jokes and unashamedly laugh with its homophobia. On some level people learn and have attitudes reinforced by movies. But movies are made to make money, and they make money by giving the audience what it wants. Any understanding of racism in popular films must first come from dealing with the racism of the white audience.



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Continued from page 10

prison, Florence, Arizona 85232, and let him know that you know about two gays in his prison that are separated due to their ignorance of gay inmates, and tell him to put us back together. We never bothered anyone.

Sincerely,
Joseph Grier
Box B-40548
Florence, AZ 85232

[Carl Houston Stewart
Box B-38746
Florence, AZ 85232]

PS Please put a penpal ad in for us too. Thanks.

See, it's ok if you don't get involved or become serious, or if a kid is just being passed around or used, but when one falls in love, they can't deal with it. They act like they're scared, jealous . . . their only course is to destroy.

i've got a real one

I'm writing to comment on a letter you printed last April 6 entitled "more power to us all" by Jackie Beattie. I'm in the same prison as she is and am a good friend of hers and know she won't mind if I kick

some input into her letter.

I was not a lesbian before coming to prison, and I guess I won't be "officially" until I get out (smile). I had two very brief encounters with womyn on the streets but never got so far as to

make love with them. I wrote these incidents off as "drunken" mistakes. But I came to prison and was introduced to a whole new world. I also fell hopelessly and desperately in love.

My lover has been a lesbian all her life. She found it very hard to believe that a woman straight all her life could actually be in love with her. But I didn't give up easily. I knew not whether what I was feeling was right or wrong at the time. But I knew it was real and strong. I also knew it was the best feeling I had ever felt in my life and I wasn't letting go of it.



anyone could ask for (both inside and out) answering it.

This individual opened his heart

I knew not whether what I was feeling was right or wrong at the time. But I knew it was real and strong. I also knew it was the best feeling I had ever felt in my life and I wasn't letting go of it.

In October she left and I felt all alone and very lost. She waited to get in touch with me — still not convinced I was really in love. She came back and talked to me through the bars. But eventually I got [disciplinary] tickets for it and was moved back to the security building. Not seeing each other, she was miserable out there and I was miserable up here.

You know what she did? She got [her parole] revoked and came back to spend her last ten months with me. (I've got myself a real one.) Now we are constantly getting tickets and they try to keep us apart but it doesn't work. We find ways to see each other.

I have a 19-month-old daughter from a previous relationship. My lover is wonderful with her. The three of us are looking forward to starting our life together this year. I really love her and hope this will be just one small way of assuring her of that. She is more sensitive to my needs and to my being than any men could ever be. What makes more sense than to love and be loved by another woman? Nothing!

I admit there are a lot of phonies running around here playing games, and part of their game is trying to destroy the real relationships. Mostly out of jealousy, I guess. And I know we will survive together.

(Dedicated to S. [unreadable name; sorry, Linda] and our beautiful daughter Marie)
Laura Guist
Box 971
Taycheedah, WI 54935

PS I receive your paper weekly and I really appreciate it. I look forward to becoming a paid subscriber when I get out. I also look forward to writing a letter — similar to this one — a year from now telling you we made it. Just me, Marie and our real one. Thanks again.

to me and I believe I was as happy as one can be while locked up in a cage. We became close very quickly and were friends for 18 months. But it was just too good, so these people who call themselves "administrators" saw fit to take this away from me claiming that our letters were obscene because two male adults aren't supposed to write what they wish in a letter to one another. If you can't understand what I'm saying, don't feel lost. I still can't get my mind to grasp this either!

I've enclosed a copy of what was placed in my institutional record [warning about disciplinary report if writing continued].

I for one am quite proud to be gay and don't care who knows it. I am sure my friend is just as proud, but was in a position where discretion was needed, being a family man where the knowledge of his sexual pleasure would bring pain to his loved ones, and that is to be respected.

So instead of simply not letting me write him, they had to try and ruin his image with his family by writing in bold on one of his letters the following statement: RETURN TO SENDER — OBSCENE! I've also enclosed here my last letter from my friend, one that brings tears to my eyes each time I read it.

If you would be nice enough to give me another chance at a friend, I sure would appreciate it. I'm awfully lonely. The ad could read: lonely gay male seeks correspondence. Age and race not important. Interests include nature's beauty, reading, karate, and sex (but we won't talk about that).

Thanks,
Robert Barnason
063503 A-108-T
19000 SW 377th St.
Florida City, FL 33034

I for one am quite proud to be gay and don't care who knows it. I am sure my friend is just as proud, but was in a position where discretion was needed, being a family man . . .

return to sender: obscene

I've been laying in this bed that the state of Florida is so anxious to keep me in, trying to get my pain and anger into words that you might understand.

Approximately a year and a half ago I was fortunate enough to have two good things happen to me in a place where good things are a rarity. First thing was your paper ran my ad, and secondly, I was rewarded with the sweetest, warm-heartedest individual



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N CAMB: GM has 2 BR apt to share. Sks quiet semi-veg non-smkr, neat & indep for spacious, comfy place; lg veg gard. \$275 + util. 876-8021 eve. (43)

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Dbl rms, coffee by fireside, pkg, apts also avail, 1 blk bay, open year round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St, P'town, MA 02657 (4)

BRINLEY VICTORIAN INN

Explore Newport but let us harbor you with warm & friendly service. romantic Victorian decor. fresh flowers, cont. brkft. (401)849-7645. (13/1)

VERMONT GUESTHOUSE

Bed + Cont Bkfst for Lesbians and Gay Men in a country village house 2 hrs fr Bos. Yr-round. Nr lakes, hikes, skiing. Dave + Mike (802)348-7840.

THE GREENHOUSE

Women's Guesthouse, cozy, comfortable, parking, cont. bkfst, off season rates. 18 Pearl St.-Box 22 P'Town Ma 02657 (617) 487-2210 (4)

A SPRING TIME FANCY

A special place for friends and lovers. Secluded setting on 100 acres at the end of a country lane. Beautiful mountain views. Charming guest rooms. Gracious common areas. Crackling fires at night, peace and quiet always. Come see what you've been missing. The Highlands Inn, Box 118G, Bethlehem, NH 03574, (603) 869-3978. Grace & Judi, Innkeepers. (44)

BED & BREAKFAST IN N.Y.

Enjoy a decadent weekend in a charming, lesbian owned, N.Y. brownstone — only 1 subway stop from Manhattan. Be pampered by having breakfast served in bed, and sipping a complimentary bottle of champagne on arrival. For more information, call (718)625-2653, THE RADCLIFFE HALL. (13/36)

Lesblan & Gay Bed & Breakfast network needs homes or apts nationwide. If interested call Qui Travel 212-496-5110. ext. 23 (43)

SUMMER VACATION

Gay male 18+ older. Private Island 40 miles north of Boston. Day. Week, Month, Season. References required. Call 595-9737. (45)

SUMMER RENTALS

NO. TRURO

Lesblan wanted to rent two room shack. Available June-October, use weekends or full time \$1000 phone 661-2064 or 497-5999 leave message. (42)

PROVINCETOWN WATERFRONT APARTMENTS

Furn. apts. in quiet West End—ideal for lovers—by week, month, now through June and after Labor Day. Telephone: (617) 487-2771 or 262-7396 rates: from \$360/wk w/discounts. Ref. required. (47)

WOMEN'S LAKESHORE PRIVACY IN CENTRAL MAINE

Secluded seductive cabin — 3 bedrooms stone fireplace, loons at night. June-Sept, S. Roberts No. 6EE 758 Pelham Pkwy, S Bronx, NY 10462 (212) 823-6831 (45)

PROVINCETOWN COTTAGE

2 bdrm sleeps 4 llv-kit combo 2 min to private beach avail May-Sept July + Aug \$400 wk Tel eve (617) 373-1955 Carole (46)

ORGANIZATIONS

N AMER MAN/BOY LOVE ASSOC

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD, PO Box 174, New York, NY 10018. (v. 13, no.22)

NASHUA AREA GAYS meet on Mondays at 8:00 pm. For info write Nashua Area Gays. PO Box 885, Nashua, NH 03060. (4)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST COALITION FOR LESBIAN/GAY

Concerns. 4th national gathering June 25-27, Ames, Iowa. For membership, information or registration: UCCLGC, 18 N. College St, Athens, OH 45701. (38)

WOMEN'S BARTER NETWORK

Short on cash, but have lots you'd like to trade for your needs? Women's Barter Network is a non-profit, nationwide barter referral system for women and women's organizations/businesses. Send SASE for details to: Women's Barter Network, Box 712, Wabash, Indiana 46992. (62)

HETEROSEXISM, RACISM

Sexism, anti-Semitism, multicultural issues. Workshops by national consultants for your organization (municipal, professional, political, educational) or business. Contact Equity Institute in Amherst, MA at (413)256-6902. Co-directors Carole Lannigan Johnson, J.D., and Joan Lester, Ed D. (4)

MARCHING BAND

For lesbian/gay pride practises each Tues 7:30pm YWCA rm 707, 140 Clarendon St Bos. Call Wayne 726-3161(day) Mary Helen 875-4194, Greg 236-1641. (37)

HAD ENOUGH religious homophobia?

WE ARE

Gay And Lesbian Atheists Write to GALA for information and a free copy of the GALA REVIEW, P.O. Box 14142, San Francisco, CA 94114

Lobbying and fighting legally for realistic approaches to social interaction—especially for same-sex oriented youth who cannot relate easily or safely to their peers as heterosexual youth can. Info+sample bulletin \$2.00-Annual Membership/Subscription \$20.00. Reality Inc. P.O. Box 73 Paramus, NJ 07653-0073.

D.O.B.

Suppt orgnzn for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb, Old Bap Chr. Raps evry Tues, Thurs 8pm. Special raps for 35+; parents; yngr wmn; baby bmsr; singles; coming-out; Issues forum. All 8pm. Mnthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (4)

LESBIANS

Are you Lesbian, Bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go to? Come join us at BAGLY.

Call Tony, 497-8282.

(13/32)

GAY LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

Am Tikva welcomes you. Activities include religious observances, discussions, potluck dinners, folk dancing, etc. For events, check GCN Calendar. Call (617) 782-8894 or write PO Box 11 Camb, MA 02238.

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS

Gay is OK! SDA Kinship International, Inc., since 1976, is a support group of several hundred gay/lesbian Adventists, present and former, in local chapters nationwide. Ask for brochure. Box 1233-L, Los Angeles, CA 90078. 213-876-2076. (49)

GCN SPECIALS

Gay Community News needs help on Friday nights mailing the paper to our subscribers. Come and help: it's easy, it's fun, it's a good way to meet people, and it's a good way to get involved with your community's paper. Just come anytime after 6PM to 167 Tremont Street, 5th floor (between the Byston and Park Street "T" stops). If the door is locked, buzz us on the GCN intercom located outside the door. If you have any questions, call Marcos at 426-4469. (c)

NEW PROMO HOMO NEEDS HELP

If anyone could spare a couple of hours a week (preferably on Fridays but not necessarily) to help stuff envelopes and other challenging tasks it would be much appreciated. The work is easy and the atmosphere is fun. Call Brian at 426-4469. Thanks! (c)

HELP!

GCN's Features Dept is getting snowed under. Spring's coming Help dig us out. Typing, research, editing, filing, lay-out: all sorts of tasks for all sorts of people. Any day, almost any time. Call Lois Hayes at 426-4469. (c)

ARTISTS ILLUSTRATORS DESIGNERS GCN needs some new and exciting graphics to grace our covers and features stories. Call (or write) now and ask for Jean. If Jean is not in leave your name and number and what type of art you do. Be in our pool of artists. 426-4469. (c)

ALL APARTMENT ADS, even if you rent space in your own home, are business ads and must be paid for at the business rate (see form).

DEAR ADVERTISER

If race is not a crucial issue for you, why put it in your ad? It is not a required formula; GWM GWF are not necessary. GM or GF would do as well.

FOREX TRAVEL

TIME TO BOOK SUMMER FUN MIX AND MATCH ONE WAY FARES

London	199.00	Paris	239.00
Frankfurt	279.50	Amsterdam	199.00
Zurich	299.50	Munich	279.50
Nice	299.50	Vienna	309.50
Geneva	284.50	Hamburg	279.50
Hong Kong	464.50	Tokyo	414.50
Bangkok	549.50	Manila	499.50

(Based on Roundtrip Purchase)

SERVING THE BOSTON COMMUNITY SINCE 1964
ALL AIRLINES•LOWEST PRICES•NO SERVICE CHARGE

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist).



I am a 38 yr old Black female, professional cosmetologist and pursuing a BS degree in Computer Science. I enjoy playing tennis, modern dance, reading and writing. I am bi-lingual (Eng and Spanish) and a very positive motivated energetic person. Sandra D. LAURENCE, W-19366, Latham B 319, Frontera CA 91720.

Very admirable Black woman would like to correspond with an individual who has time to really build a solid relationship. I'm young and very sexy. Please respond with SASE and photo if possible. Darlin R. CALDWELL, No.2-L, 220 E. Maryland St., Indpls, IN 46204.

BUILDING MORE PRISONS TO CURE "CRIME" IS LIKE BUILDING MORE TOILETS TO CURE DIARRHEA...



Capricorn; hobbies are boxing, coin and stamp collecting, reading and playing the clarinet. would love for anyone from the age of 18 to 118 to write me. R. WORKMAN, 1527, E-002975, Box 1100, Avon Park FL 33825.

Mid-thirties, Columbia grad, looking to establish a loving, caring relationship. I enjoy sports, travel and other outdoor activities. I can make no claims of massive virility, but can offer myself. William O'ROURKE, 81A 3938, CCF Box 367, Dannemora NY 12929.

I like to travel, art, poetry, music, warm rain and soft moments. Interested in hearing from serious minded individuals. Kevin SHEPHERD, 172854, Box 4571, Lima OH 45802.



Prisoners Seeking Friends

"In an unjust state, the only place for a just person is in jail."

If anyone in prison ever writes and tells you how good and trustworthy their administration has been (for allowing them some privilege even though their gay), tell them the contents of this letter [about his administration's betraying him; will be printed in full soon in GCN] or ask them to write me. I'd really like to have some penpals on that I'm so isolated if you could put an ad in for me. Thanks! A. Brent EARLS, 44604 (A-3), Box 600, Canon City CO 81212.



The cutest and most loveable gay is feeling very lonely and would like to hear from fellow gays. Into body building and poetry. Will be out soon. Please write Keith KRAUSE, 19136, 700 Conley Lake Rd, Deer Lodge, MT 59722.

Admirable gay black man, opinionated, and very affectionate, slim hairy chested looking for a fem lover to parole home to. All queens, tv's and ts's have an open invitation. I will most definitely respond. Norman GOODSON, 24979, Box 41, Michigan City IN 46360.

I'm in prison and, of course, lonely. Searching for someone to have a good talk with. To express true feelings in prison in a sign of weakness. Please let's talk. Leroy WILDERMUTH, 286339 (3B-6), Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362.

Virgo in deep need to receive letters from anyone that may have some desire to talk with me and start a loving and intelligent relationship together. C.A. BETTIS, 45962, Box 900, Jefferson City MO 65102.

Free soon! Would like to know some hot numbers in the midwest for hot time. Any race, anything goes. Richard SHUMARD, C68177, Box 83101, Rm 3175-B, San Luis Obispo CA 93409.

Bisexual black, 165 lbs of pure beef, needing someone to help with new start in life. Cooking is one of my best trades. Tyrone HARRIS, EF-124046, E-B-6, Macon GA 31213.

G4 seeking correspondence with anyone that's willing to understand and help face his life in order and reenter into a world of love. Glen KESLER, 079585, K-G-473, Box 158, Lowell FL 32663.



I don't know what to say to tempt someone to want to know me better. How about 'Here I sit in a hole, playing with my pole; drop me a line and make me feel whole' (smile). I'm locked up and don't want my feelings to be hurt because of being behind bars. Hope you like the drawing I'm enclosing for use in the paper. Robert DRISCOLL, Box 900 CP-33, Jefferson City MO 65102.

Looking for a friend and companion, someone to sponsor me for parole. I'm a serious college student, warm and very affectionate. I need some encouragement and support. Send photo and SASE please. Mel "Micky" RHODES, 287630 (B-3-6W), Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362.



CALENDAR

**May 11
to
May 24**

11 saturday

Boston — Choosing Children shown as part of awards presentation of New England Film Festival; Boston Film/Video Foundation, 1126 Boylston St. 8PM. Also showing Sunday. \$4.50. Info: 266-7455.

Salem — Spring Fundraising Auction for North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance. Town Hall, Derby Sq. 6:30PM. \$1. Cash Bar. Info: 745-3848.

Worcester — Toshi Reagon, Marion Street-people and Virginia Rubino; concert to benefit Worcester Rape Crisis Program; United Congregational Church, 6 Institutional Rd. 8PM. \$5. Info: 248-6294.

Boston — Libana, a women's ethnic ensemble. Faneuil Hall. 8PM. \$7/door, \$6/advance. Info: 864-9612.

Boston — "Illusions," mime and magic by Jim Vetter. Mirage Studio Theater, Boston Center for the Arts, 551 Tremont St. 8PM. (Also Fridays through 4/25) \$5. Info: 267-4170.

Allston — Deborah Silverstein and Jan Downey to perform; Common Sense Coffeehouse, Club Pub, 449 Cambridge St. 8:30PM. Info: 661-7263.

Allston — A Bold Stroke for a Wife, performed by **Double Edge Theatre**; Church of Sts. Luke and Margaret, 40 Brighton Ave. 8PM. \$8, \$7 students & senior citizens. Info: 776-9474.

12 sunday

Cambridge — Black & White Men Together membership meeting and social at the Philips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. 1-5PM. Info: 536-1160.

Plum Island — Wild Women of D.O.B. head for Hellcat Swamp. Leave Cambridge 9:30AM. Info: Mimi, 924-1543.

Boston — Red Hearts monthly potluck brunch for **leftward-leaning** gay men: newcomers welcome. Bring healthy food to share. 11AM. Info: Clay, 547-5166.

Boston — Ongoing women's book discussion group open to new members. 6-8PM. This week: Kim Chernin's *In My Mother's House*. Info: Nancy, 489-3601, or Liz, 666-0350.

Somerville — Brunch and stories with Tita Wernimont. Peasant Stock Restaurant, 415 Washington St. Brunch seating at noon, performance, 1PM. \$6.95. Reservations: 354-9528.

Boston — "The Universal Struggle of the Feminist Movement," a service with speaker **Tatyana Mamonova**; Community Church of Boston, 565 Boylston St., Copley Sq. 11AM.

13 monday

Boston — Black Rose Radio presents part 2 of Lisa Duggan on "Feminists, the Right and Anti-Pornography"; WMBR 88.1 FM. 5PM. Info: 497-0647.

14 tuesday

Cambridge — Cambridge Lesbian and Gay Alliance steering committee: discussion of upcoming Candidates Night, new Human Rights Commission and Gay Pride Events. 8PM. Info: 547-2197.

Cambridge — Substance Abuse discussion for women with Teri Freeman. Daughters of Bilitis, Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

15 wednesday

Worcester — "Gay Blues" radio show. WCUW 91.3 FM. 7PM.

Boston — Reservations deadline for Black and White Men Together Eastern Region **dinner dance** on Memorial Day weekend. \$25. Info: 536-3392.

Boston — "Nica-rock," live music benefit for Artists' Brigade to Nicaragua. Somewhere Else, Franklin St. 8PM. \$5. Info: 738-9719.

16 thursday

Boston — Gay Community News always needs help on production night when articles are proofread and pasted up. If you've done **proofreading** or **layout** and would like to volunteer, stop by 167 Tremont St. 5th Floor (5-8pm for proofing, 7:30-11pm for layout). Come help out GCN and read tomorrow's news today.



Jennifer Justice, see May 16

Cambridge — Stories of women's resistance to the Holocaust, by Jennifer Justice. Cafe LaRuche, 24 Dunster St. 8PM. \$5. Info: 776-4514.

Cambridge — Reading Event: Kathleen Aguero, poet, and Judith Beth Cohen, author of *Seasons*. 7:30PM. New Words Books, 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. Info: 876-5310.

Cambridge — Drop-in discussion group for women with **incest** histories — topic is "Mothers"; Cambridge Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Square. 7:30-9:30PM. Info: 492-1818.

17 friday

Boston — GCN VOLUNTEER NIGHT!!! Come help send out the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments and good times. Come anytime after 6PM to 167 Tremont Street, 5th Floor (near Boylston and Park Street "T" stops). If the door is locked, buzz us on the GCN intercom located outside the front door.

Cambridge — Women's Spirituality Network discussion and rituals. 186 Hampshire St., Inman Sq. 7PM. Info: 497-8084, or PO Box 827, Cambridge 02238.

Boston — Cris Williamson, Teresa Trull, Barbara Higbie & Tret Fure in concert; interpreted by Susan Freundlich; The Opera House, 539 Washington St. \$12.75/\$13.75. Info: 426-3888.

Portland, Maine — Twelfth annual Lesbian and Gay Symposium. University of Southern Maine. Info: Gay People's Alliance, (207) 780-4085.

Cambridge — 3 films by independent **Black filmmakers**. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 7:30PM. \$2.75. Also Sat. & Sun. Info: Angry Arts, 522-1058.

18 saturday

Boston — Values, ethics and personal spirituality: a presentation to the Greater Boston's Gay Men's Association. St. John the Evangelist, 33 Bowdoin St., Beacon Hill. 8PM. All welcome; bring food or drink; donations to AIDS Food Bank welcome.

Boston — Mayfest '85: music, food, fun & games. The Fens. 11AM-4PM. Free. Info: 437-2110 or 437-3153.

Cambridge — Acting Out Addictions: a theater workshop for women. Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St., Central Sq. 12-5PM. \$15-40. Info: 628-9172.

Portland, Maine — Kate Clinton, lesbian-feminist humorist. Luther Bonney Auditorium, University of Southern Maine. 8PM. Info: Gay People's Alliance, (207) 780-4085.

19 sunday

Boston — Am Tikva Men's Potluck. Info: 782-8894.

Framingham — Fashion Show sponsored by Tri-County Association; Carondelet Hall, The Deaf Community Center, Bethany Road. 7PM. \$6, advance/\$7.50, door (includes dinner & show, BYOB). Info: 376-8145.

Watertown — GLOW (Gays and Lesbians of Watertown) hike and picnic on the Fellsway and monthly meeting, 7PM, with pizza party. Info: 923-2065 or 926-5371.

Boston — Unitarian Universalist Gays and Lesbians: presentation by David Scondras. Clarke room, Arlington Street Church. 7PM. Info: 262-2068.

Cambridge — New Men's music and poetry. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave., Harvard Sq. \$5, \$4 in advance. All welcome. Info: 625-4293.

Ogunquit, Maine — Chiltern Mt. Club annual 70-mile ride from Ogunquit to Crane's Beach. Info: Eugene, 776-2041, (weekends: (207) 646-3534) or Jose, (603) 569-1254.

22 wednesday

Boston — Boston Bisexual Women's Network — topic "Gay Liberation is Our Liberation"; Somewhere Else (upstairs), 295 Franklin St. 7PM. Info: BBWN, P.O. Box 1534, Jamaica Plain 02130.

23 thursday

Jamaica Plain — AIDS Forum: presentation, questions & answers; Agassiz School, Child St. 7:30PM. Sponsored by J.P. Lesbian & Gay Neighbors and AIDS Action Committee. Info: 522-6983.

24 friday

Boston — Northeastern University's 1st Gay & Lesbian Dance; Ell Center ballroom, 360 Huntington Ave. 9PM. \$2. Refreshments available. Info: 437-2738.

Notes crisis relief

Mike Nichols and Elaine May, Gregory Hines, Joan Rivers, Randy Newman and others will perform in *Comic Relief*, an entertainment produced by Lorne Michaels, Sunday, May 19, at 7 p.m. at the Shubert Theatre in New York City. The evening, co-chaired by Joseph Papp, Bernard B. Jacobs and Gerald Schoenfeld, will raise funds for the AIDS Medical Foundation (AMF), a not-for-profit organization founded two years ago by a group of scientists, physicians and concerned citizens to fight AIDS through medical research and public education. (Chairperson Dr. Mathilde Krim was the model for the heroic Dr. Emma Brookner in Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*.)

Tickets, priced from \$100 to \$500, can be ordered from AMF, Suite 1266, 230 Park Ave., New York, NY 10169 and are also available at the Shubert box office. For more details, call AMF at (212) 949-7410.

— Nicholas Deutsch



Gregory Hines

the company of wolves

Angela Carter, who has been garnering a cult reputation as a feminist fabulist and sexual theorist over the years, has written the screenplay for *The Company of Wolves* from her own short story. An updated retelling — in feminist, Freudian and explicitly sexual terms — of Little Red Riding Hood, Carter takes the original material and punches more meaning, life and expectations into it than you might have thought possible.

The film looks great and the mood flits between a horror flick and an adult fairy tale. Unfortunately, Carter's overly literary and intellectualized tone shows through; it's easy to see why lots of critics have been put off or confused by the film. Not totally successful, it's still more engaging than almost anything else around.

desperately seeking susan

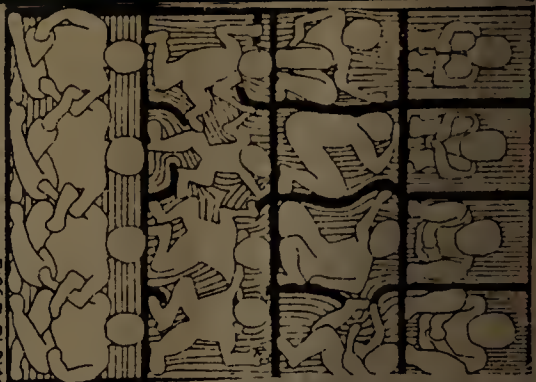
After scoring a hit with the decline and fall of an untalented punkette in 1982's *Smithereens*, director Susan Seidelman has returned with more tales of ordinary women. Actually it's the story of one extraordinary one: Susan, played by the ineffable self-parodying Madonna. Roberta and Susan are romantic idealizations. The first, with her fantasies, is a modern, un-doomed Emma Bovary; the second, with her casual carnality, is a mixture of Lilith and Scarlett O'Hara — but without all of the extra moralistic baggage that male writers and directors have placed upon them.

Flashy and sassy *Definitely Seeking Susan* is probably the most purely enjoyable film in a year.

— Michael Bronski

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

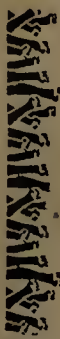


TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist.



I'm a 31 yr old dyke (butch) looking for love and friendship, esp. interested "femmes" but will gladly write anyone who writes me. I'd enjoy some sexy, hot letters from some sexy hot young ladies who enjoy turning on an old dyke with a tongue always ready for action. I'm not allowed to write other prisoners. Robyn Shawnee JACKSON, Box A, 6007284, Oakdale LA 52319.

30 yr old gay woman interested in finding mature gay female penpals. Pictures - most welcome (will reciprocate). Unfortunately I can't write other prisoners. Gloria GIBSON, BFO-1955 Box 172, PO Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.



GCN GAY AND LESBIAN PRISONER PROJECT

We send free papers, books (when they are donated and money for postage is available), and run free penpal ads. (There's sometimes a long waiting list because of limited space.) As we get more volunteers we'll be looking for other ways to make the connections between lesbians and gay men behind bars and those of us on the outside. If you can help with your time or a contribution of mainly gay paperbacks or of money, we are at 167 Tremont, Boston, MA 02111. THANKS!

FREE PRISON PARALEGAL SERVICE

(for prisoners who can write to and receive mail from other prisoners) Help with legal research, Memoranda of Law, preparing legal documents for Habeas Corpus Petitions, Civil Rights Complaints, post conviction remedies, disciplinary and grievance matters. Write directly to James R. Romero, PO Box 1059, 28522, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

If anyone knows about law or other civil rights and wants to be friends with a gay man, I'm in solitary confinement and can get mail from other prisons and would like to hear from you. Need some friends to stay in the right space of mind. Michael SELLARS, 634034 (3-3-IMU), Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362.

Going up for parole in October of this year and need place to go and help finding work. I'm a spray painter and welder by trade. Can you help out? I can do my part. Ray GRIFFIN, 35302, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043.

GM looking for close love relationship. Very discreet, prefer nonsmoker. I'm tired of bars and drugs. Will be out fairly soon. Picture a must. Robert GENTRY, 131582, Box 500, Boynton VA 23917.

My interests are tennis, poetry, chess. I have approximately 2 years left in the system. Not into head trips. All will be answered. Lloyd MCCOLE, 380912, Rt 4 Box 1500, Angleton TX 77515.

30 yr old black prisoner, locked away from society for 14 straight years. Would like to hear from gays outside. I don't have any prejudice about age. Jackie HARDY, Box 221, Ralston FL 32083.

Prisoners Seeking Friends

Another PENPAL club (GAY!) Send brief description of your interests to Joint Venture, PO Box 26-8484, Chicago, IL 60626.

Jailhouse Lawyers Manual

How to file a 1983 suit, basic procedures in filing suits, motions, prisoners right to help one another, how to do legal research, legal forms, and sources of support and publicity. Free, while they last from GCN Prisoner Project, 167 Tremont, Boston MA 02111.

Behind Bars

RFD, a magazine for gay men who live in rural areas, has a Brothers Behind Bars program designed to provide lists of prisoners seeking correspondents on the outside. Drop them a line and be part of their program. RFD, Running Water, Rt 1 Box 127-E, Bakesville NC 28705. (They are distributed coast to coast.)

Article on "Transsexualism and sex role power" is available for the asking from GCN Prisoner Project, 167 Tremont St, Boston MA 02111.

Hello! I go by the name (nickname) "Judy" and am looking forward to a sex change when released from prison. My happy times are swimming, camping, and I'd love to have other gay or bisexual males for friendship. Thank you. Herb SHACKELFORD, 39699 (1-C-197), Box 7, Moberly MO 65270.

Is there anybody out there who really cares? I'm soon to be released and looking for someone special who is interested in being a friend/lover/companion. If you are serious about what could be between us please write. Charles RINDONE, 789265, PO Box 500 (E-34), Olathe FL 32072.

I'm writing to a nice guy from Dignity in Houston but I feel I need more friends. I still feel alone for some reason. I'm thinking some lonely and awful in a way thoughts (just losing it I guess) Well anyway, I should say something about myself. I like one on one relationships. It seems no one does anymore. I'm just an old fashion gay male I guess, but it's what I'll always be. I also like travel, but don't do much of that anymore (smile), and the beach and backpacking. Dennis JONES, 394877 Eastham, Box 16, Lovelady TX 75851.

Interested in correspondence: good looking, non-prejudistic, very open-minded and slender built. Please write Michael HAMMONS, 251114, SOC-B2A, PO Box 514, Monroe WA 98272.

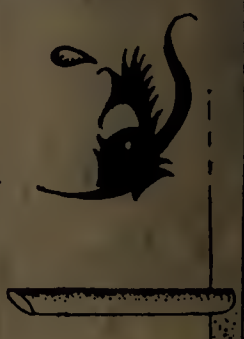
I really enjoy poetry, westerns and horror type stuff. And most of all a penpal would be the greatest reading material. Hoping you can help me a little. Thanks! John J. SMITH, 13574, PO Box 30, Pendleton IN 46064.

Young guy wishes to write convincing TVs and all TSS. I just LOVE TSS. 121871, PO Box 500, Boynton VA 23917.

I want to relocate to the New England area and start life over again and not have to worry about seeing this place again. Would like to hear from possible friends there or elsewhere. William MINTZ, 078289, Box 221, Ralston FL 32083.

I've come to you swollen in loneliness. I cannot describe the compassion I seek. I am not without logic. I have survived deep distress and rejection by enduring the moment. The space I inhabit is a pressured zone of influence. The hours I spend in contemplation have often misled my decisions. I've made progress. Still I'm alone. Please consider writing. Veophilus H. BLACK, 047889, Box 900, Jefferson City MO 65102.

I'm more comfortable with flora and fauna than with people; don't drink or smoke, love piano music and making love under the stars more than money. I write bad poetry and have a barely restrainable urge to build something larger than myself. What I am looking for is someone to share my thoughts and dreams with. That's all I can say. David Leon BARTH, 066796 (B-37), Box 500, Olathe FL 32072.



STEVIN

Age 37, occupation (on the outside): charter pilot, single engine aircraft, interests: computers, photography, philosophy, out of body experiences, writing. Would like to write someone. Lee DONEHOWER, Box 94949, Lincoln NE 68509.

To be released in 6 months and would like to meet some new friends. Plan to relocate if work and living arrangements can be arranged. Interests include working, traveling, the outdoors, and sex. Michael D. SMITH, 103838, PO Box 97, McAlester OK 74501.

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of David Paul Edgar (22 yrs old, from Houston originally) is urged to contact Bruce Kovach, Davidson County Jail, 448 Second Ave No., Nashville TN 37201.

My interests include fashion, creative art, quiet evenings, making love and gay men, especially TVs and TSS. Please let me hear from you. Raymond GAITHER, Box 137, Tillery NC 27887.

